HERTFORDSHIRE MEN OF MARK

A PORTRAIT GALLERY

Truman Pbk

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HERTFORDSHIRE

MEN OF MARK

BEING A SERIES OF

CHATTY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

IN THE FORM OF

PEN POLITICAL PORTRAITS

BY

TRUMAN PRESS,

EDITOR OF "THE HERTFORDSHIRE STANDARD."

With Twenty-two Illustrations.

ST. ALBANS:
WILLIAM CARTMEL, VICTORIA STREET.
1887.

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PRINTED BY WILLIAM CARTMEL, ST. ALBANS.

PREFACE.

THE present Volume is the outcome of an idea which was originally of a very modest character. In his capacity as Editor of *The Hertfordshire Standard*, the author, in 1886, contributed some hastily-written sketches on the lives of county politicians. The task became one of increasing severity and of increasing interest, until it was evident there was ample scope for a production of this sort, and certainly plenty of important and entertaining facts for the purpose. The result is seen in the following pages. With the exception of a few reproduced from the Pen Political Portrait column of *The Hertfordshire Standard*, all the present articles have been specially prepared.

The appearance of as many as twenty-two photographic

illustrations is a new feature in a book of this character, and the softness and delicacy obtained are very creditable to the firm who were entrusted with this department of the work, Messrs. Meisenbach and Co., 31, Farringdon Street, London. The process employed is the right of that company, and one may believe that, particularly the newspaper world, and publishers generally, will notice their artistic success on this occasion with unmistakable pleasure, considering the great difficulties that have been experienced in obtaining well-executed results in this direction. It is due to Messrs. Meisenbach to say that these illustrations have been prepared from photographs of various sizes and frequently from old copies, when the gentlemen in question were much younger.

As the reader peruses the pages, the thought will doubtless often occur, how varied and rich in incident have been the careers of many of the Hertfordshire Men of Mark, and fully worthy of notice in this permanent form. Truly, in the words of a vigorous thinker, "Some men are born to greatness, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

The aim has been to include a representative of every section of the county public, and for some the book may be

too comprehensive, taking in, as it does, men of such opposite opinions. But the standpoint taken has been outside of party prejudices, with absolutely no partisan purposes to fulfil. Those who occupy public positions have been considered suitable subjects for sketches, despite whatever the voice of political animosity or the unfriendly tongue of private opinion may have to say concerning any. It is true that not all of those whose lives are here put "under one clasp" are of equal importance; yet any promptings towards exclusiveness have been shunned because, as Carlyle says, "A true delineation of the smallest man and his scene of pilgrimage through life is capable of interesting the greatest man. All men are to an unspeakable degree brothers; each man's life a strange emblem of every man's: human portraits faithfully drawn are of all pictures the welcomest on human walls."

Of course, some reference must be made to the absence of any biography of the leading Hertfordshire Man of Mark—the Marquess of Salisbury. A life so truly great and crowded with details of Imperial concern would require not one but many volumes to itself. With considerable reluctance, too, many other noteworthy county gentlemen have not been

dealt with ; and it is necessary to say, that the author does not by any means suppose he has exhausted the list of those whose life-work should find a place in a volume of this description. There are here presented only a selection of Hertfordshire biographies, and there is ample material for Vol. II.

TRUMAN PRESS.

March, 1887.

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THE EARL OF VERULAM.

HERTS MEN OF MARK.

James Walter, Earl of Verulam,

LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD, AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM OF HERTFORDSHIRE.

ONLY calm and tranquil feelings arise in reviewing the career and gleaning all that is helpful from a character so true and gentle as that of the second Earl of Verulam. In his present peaceful retirement the Lord Lieutenant of Herts is revered by all. Active public life is resigned ; the clamour and choler of party politics in the outside world are, for him, shut out safe from all intrusion. Contented quiet and harmony are preserved within the walls of Gorhambury ; thus permitting no distracting disturbances to old age, which should, in Dr. Young's uncommonly beautiful words—

> Walk thoughtful on the silent, solemn shore
> Of that vast ocean it must sail so soon.

The time and remaining opportunities of the Earl of Verulam, as we all have very good reasons for knowing, are not by any means spent in selfish solitude. His lordship

still profits, so far as strength is granted him, by his early acquisition of diligent habits. Thus he sets a splendid example to many others who, in the possession of more vigorous health, nevertheless allow the mind to expend itself upon trifles, like setting a Naysmith's hammer to crack nuts.

Though seventy-eight years of age, and often busily engaged with the affairs of his own estate, the Earl devotes considerable time to matters of local philanthropy. And for those who are observant and ready to benefit from biography, there is here an undoubted and strong individuality with which to become acquainted. Having warm and generous impulse, broad human sympathies, and a mind capable of a nice discrimination between causes and effects, the subject of this opening article is, as he always has been, peculiarly well-fitted to perform worthily the share to which he succeeded in the hereditary legislation of the country. At the present juncture, of course, we are more accustomed to think of the Earl of Verulam from the social standpoint, rather than as regards serious and controversial politics. Now-a-days, whenever he is able to attend any public gathering in our midst, his presence is always welcomed on every hand, as one who brings with him dignity, unassuming, but none the less effective for commanding the respect of all, and a ready power for imparting mental energy into the subjects under consideration. He never speaks without revealing a mind ornamented with some of the choicest growth of literature; and to the culture of his learning is closely allied a lurking liking for certain witticisms with which most of his utterances are rendered fresh and piquant. Then, too, there is the ease and grace of his manner. The *aplomb*—with Charles Lever we may ask, why should there be a French word for an English quality?—which marks

the Earl's ways gives an additional attraction to all he says or does at any public ceremony, for with his lordship there is not the slightest straining after effect, only the impress of certain gifts which elevate him to an acknowledged superiority in society. To the independence of his exalted position in life must probably be largely attributed the reserve that has been somewhat cultivated as the result of a tendency, very laudable in itself, for being greatly oblivious of selfish considerations ; and this trait has become so strong as to be a little irksome to any who may have to seek for information or assistance that has any bearing on his own personal qualities. The Earl of Verulam has, we should almost imagine, caught too thoroughly the spirit of the character, who, in Molière's play, thinks that whilst one may wish for what is good, it is decidedly advisable not to have anything to do with the saying of it. This admirable quality is akin to the disgust at self-laudation which always ensues from good breeding ; but, as a rule of life, it also carries with it the dangerous possibility, when too rigorously applied, of causing one's self to be scarcely approachable on purely personal matters. The penalty this inflicts, it generally happens, falls not on self but unfortunately on others. Thus, even Molière's high-minded sentiment, like homœopathic cordials, needs a little caution in the taking.

If we recall briefly the crowded and dramatic history of the past few decades, we shall at once perceive how thrilling has been the succession of events transpiring during the Earl's public career. Among the earlier of his experiences in matters of national concern, his lordship doubtless entertains vivid recollections of the services his distinguished relative, the fourth Earl of Clarendon, performed so far back as 1833, when he went to Spain, under Lord Grey's Ad-

ministration, during the warfare that raged between the Christinos and the adherents of the Pretender, Don Carlos. Added to these anxious occurrences, there have also been the political excitement attaching to the memorable Anti-Corn Law agitation ; the turmoil brewing on the Continent only to be felt in all its fury, unfolding events that gave Garibaldi his opportunity ; besides the corresponding hurly-burly at home, when we were in the throes of the Chartists' struggles. All these evidences of violent public feeling were, nevertheless, gradually giving way to industrial activity, with which the Prince Consort's great Exhibition was hailed. Hastening on all this came the Russian War, and the chronic troubles in Ireland. After a life that has witnessed, on the one hand, the distressing details that belong to many of these occasions, and, on the other, has observed the social amelioration of the country slowly worked out, surely now to the Earl of Verulam the possession must be grateful of an undisturbed rest in his private rural retreat—a rest which has been symbolic, happily, of the more subdued condition of later public affairs. How welcome the contrast ! Surely not unequal to those other contrasts so finely indicated by Spenser in his "Faerie Queene :"—

"Sleep after toyle,
Port after stormie seas,
Ease after warre,
Death after life,
Doth greatly please."

The political tenets of the Earl, we know, are not more decided on any topic than in condemnation of the wild and chimerical changes, for which the Socialists cry aloud. Pronounced opinions in this direction may be easily understood. After the miseries and torments of the various successive

warfares at home and abroad, to which we have cursorily alluded, the Earl, in addition, knows the wretchedness Communism caused fifteen years ago in France, as an instance of how mischievous such propaganda may become, even though issuing partly from men of good, though mistaken, motives. When we are reminded that the temporary success of that Movement culminated in conflagrations, serving to illumine the watchwords of the insurgents, we can picture what would be the actual outcome of the more rabid doctrines still preached in our land; and in reading the indictment of the Commune, written in those letters of lurid flame, we may take to heart the lesson from history, and at the same time read the indictment of the perilous latter-day Socialism.

James Walter, second Earl of Verulam, was born in 1809. In the autumn of 1817 or 1818 he went to Mr. Goodenough's school at Ealing, and to the Rev. F. T. Faithfull's at Hatfield in the spring following, the last-named gentleman then living at the Hill House. The stay at Hatfield was continued until 1823, when our subject went to Harrow until 1827, and then to Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1830. He sat as M.P. for St. Albans in 1830, for Newport in 1831, and for Hertfordshire 1832–45; was a Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen 1852 and 1858–9, and sometime Lieut.-Col. South Herts Yeomanry Cavalry; married in 1844 Elizabeth Joanna, daughter of Richard Weyland, Esq., of Woodeaton, Oxfordshire, but the demise of the Countess took place in 1886. The Earl has issue living, three sons and three daughters. He is the patron of seven livings—Great Henney Rectory, Messing Vicarage, Pebmarsh Rectory, Colne Wake Rectory, Essex; Redbourn Vicarage, Trinity Church, Leverstock Green, St. Michael's Vicarage,

St. Albans, Herts. Creations—Baron Forrester, of Costorphin, in the Peerage of Scotland, 1633; Viscount Grimston and Baron Duboyne, county Meath, in the Peerage of Ireland, 1719; Baron Verulam, Gorhambury, Herts, 1790, in the Peerage of Great Britain; and Earl of Verulam and Visct. Grimston 1815, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom. A Baronet, 1628. The Earl has always shown himself to be a man of kind heart and wide liberality, alike to the poor, the Church, and public institutions of many sorts. Throughout his career he has adorned the walk of life in which fortune has placed him. His many public acts testify how much he appreciates that it is incumbent for all to avoid uncharitableness, and that every ill action hurts the mind. The deep and settled public affection which lives towards James Walter, second Earl of Verulam, is the reward of a patient endeavour to be guided ever by the spirit expressed in George Herbert's lines :—

> Be useful where thou livest, that they may
> Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.
> Kindness, good part, great patience are the way
> To compass this. Find out men's wants and will,
> And meet them there. All worldly joys grow less
> To the one joy of doing kindlinesses.

LORD GRIMTHORPE.

Edmund, Lord Grimthorpe,

FORMERLY

SIR EDMUND BECKETT, Bart.,

LL.D., Q.C., F.R.A.S.,

VICAR GENERAL OF THE PROVINCE AND CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF YORK.

IF the proceeding were popular and customary of taking a Plebiscite concerning the more remarkable men of the times, there would be curious speculation as to what amount of actual public favour exists towards the redoubtable Baron Grimthorpe. Not that this thought by any means suggests he is widely unpopular—little would that, however, affect him—as it may very well be divined that many who have opposed him considerably have been prompted largely by a keen enjoyment of his merciless and trenchant style, which is noticeable most when he falls foul of any who presume to match him in a controversy. But even then we must, of course, except the F.S.A. and R.I.B.A. gentlemen.

Baron Grimthorpe is not one to court the applause of his own generation. And it is just this extreme apathy

towards outside opinions and "the world's favour," an apathy fostered by sound and cultured learning, which by encouragement has become marked as a characteristic, creating a suspicion of *hauteur* and a lack of human sympathies. Yet these feelings concerning the venerable restorer of St. Albans Abbey find a harbour probably only in the minds of those who have not penetrated into the inner life of the man. The stinging literary style by means of which he can make one smart under his caustic pen, as well as his apparently blunt and severe tendency of manner, are traits that will rise foremost before the average judge of human character. Those who understand his individuality better, however, have learnt that the heart whose munificence has lavished some hundred thousand pounds on the building of new Churches and the restoration of ancient ones, is not after all subject, as some surmise, to those ungovernable fits of being rigorously austere; that the mind which is the storehouse of erudition is not, at the same time, the seat of peevish ill-feeling; nor that the hand, free with its own offering of thousands, is lacking that good fellowship of humanity, without which our very life-blood, even if garbed with gold, would freeze. The truth is, that enough allowance is not made for personality, nor for the natural authority of a profound mind. When the noble lord hits hard and betrays a prevailing penchant for going forth to slay with the literary sword, or when he seems to notice with impervious *nonchalance* the feelings of others—such as F.S.A. gentlemen—these are not the outcome of deep-seated wrath that knows no warm instincts, but are rather often the effluence of droll and innocent fun, ensuing from a distinctive and well-developed idiosyncrasy.

Those who pass judgment hastily on Baron Grimthorpe's

seeming disregard for current feeling forget the autocracy of education. Deep and sound learning has its many graces with which to adorn life, but it also has, when knowledge is combined with culture, a despotism very real and active. A man who is in genuine possession of those higher achievements loathes verbose chatter of eulogy, and disdains anything that nurses the obsequious. It is this arbitrary sway of education, treading to death the spirit of a cringing courting of *vox populi*, that has been nurtured by Baron Grimthorpe into a peculiarity at once perplexing to the casual onlooker. Take, for example, his unparalleled work as a Church restorer. Some sentimental antiquarian student, whose knowledge after all is incomplete, is, say, enamoured of "a Norman turret." Baron Grimthorpe, conscious of his own strength and the full history of his subject, lops off the "Norman turret," evidently pachydermatous as to the criticisms that will surely follow, as copious as they are ineffective. It cannot be concealed that in his rôle of Abbey restorer he has sorely grieved the souls of the professional architect and of the few people whose eyes gloat on a spectacle of decaying and patched-up specimens of ancient architectural work. But they hug their hobby at the expense of future usefulness and durability ; he, with the autocracy of his masterly knowledge, is unmoved by sentiment, and prefers to ensure stability and suitability for succeeding ages. Thus he is an instance of the power that belongs to shrewd and great learning. He knows the ground that is under him, and just where others think to trip him up there he proves himself strongest, and makes the objections of his critics recoil upon themselves. Even if one resented the authority of his high standing, and thought him curt as well as cute, it would still have to be noticed that he emerges from every conflict

as an intellectual giant, caustic, but too cautious to stumble. The way he disposes of his assailants is also really entertaining; the ease with which he dismisses and upsets one "alarming" accusation after another in respect to his Abbey work nearly makes one forget the public interest under debate and enter heartily into the richness and force with which his pungent letters to *The Times*, for example, annihilate his foes. "As a peashooter against an Armstrong gun, as a penny squirt against Vesuvius, as a Papal Bull against a comet, or as a pill against an earthquake," so are the fulminations of F.S.A. gentlemen and others against the voice and pen of Baron Grimthorpe.

Edmund, Lord Grimthorpe, formerly Sir Edmund Beckett, fifth Baronet, is the eldest son of the late Sir Edmund Beckett, Bart., who was M.P. for the West Riding of Yorkshire, and more known by the name of Denison (though he was the sixth son of Sir John Beckett, Bart., of Somerby Park, Lincolnshire, and of Leeds), having married Maria Beverley, of Beverley, heiress of Anne, the wife of Sir Thomas Denison, a Judge of the Court of King's Bench. His brother, the second Baronet, the Right Hon. Sir John Beckett, was for many years a member of the Governments of Lord Liverpool, the Duke of Wellington, and Sir Robert Peel. Two of his other brothers were the heads of the great banking firm of Beckett and Co., of Leeds and sundry other places. The present lord was born on the 12th of May, 1816, at Carlton Hall, near Newark, but his parents lived for nearly sixty years at Doncaster. They both died in 1874. Lord Grimthorpe was at a school at Doncaster for five years, kept by the Rev. Dr. Sharpe, who was for 41 years Vicar of Doncaster, a schoolmaster and clergyman of some celebrity. He was then sent to Eton, and

afterwards to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he was a Scholar, and graduated as a Wrangler in 1838, and LL.D. in 1863. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in November, 1841, beginning his practice as a Chancery barrister ; but he soon afterwards went to the Parliamentary Bar, by desire of the leading solicitor for the Great Northern Railway Company, of which his father was Chairman for eighteen years. In 1854 he was made a Queen's Counsel by Lord Chancellor Cranworth, and soon became one of the leaders of that Bar, until he retired after the year 1881, and has since devoted himself chiefly to ecclesiastical law, having been made Chancellor of York in 1877. Since his retirement, Lord Grimthorpe has mainly occupied himself with literature and the grand work of the restoration of St. Albans Cathedral, acting as his own architect. And his interesting seat, Batch Wood, St. Albans, was designed by himself. In 1851, and the following years, he designed and superintended the construction of the great Westminster clock—the largest known—for which he invented several contrivances for securing greater accuracy than had previously been attained, and which have since come into general use in large clocks all over the world. For this purpose he was recommended to the then Government by the late Astronomer-Royal. The accurate performance of the clock is annually stated by the Greenwich Observatory, to which it reports its own rate daily by electricity. Lord Grimthorpe is the author of a well-known book ("Clocks and Watches and Bells"), being as great an authority on campanology as he is on horology. Of this scientific work there have been seven large editions, as there also have been of his other learned book, "Astronomy without Mathematics." He was Chairman of the Horological Jury in the

Exhibition of 1851, and is President of the British Horological Institute; and also of the Railway Defence Association.

Perhaps the chief thing for which Lord Grimthorpe will be known to posterity is his restoration of St. Albans Cathedral. When the new diocese was formed, that of Rochester being found too unwieldy, Bishop Claughton was transferred from Rochester to St. Albans. But the Cathedral was in a very dilapidated and dangerous condition nearly all over. A committee was formed and duly authorised to do as much as could be done by public subscription, of which our subject was treated, both by friends and opponents of the work, as the principal member; for there were some hot controversies about it, in which his side prevailed. After the public benevolence had been exhausted, and the high roof of the nave restored, it was found that the whole of the west front was in danger of coming down. Lord Grimthorpe then offered to go on with the restoration himself, and a new Faculty was granted to him, with the consent of the previous Committee, for the general restoration of the Church. Since 1879 he has built an entirely new west front, designed by himself, all the architectural features of the old one having previously perished, except a little in the porches which have all been nearly rebuilt, and their fronts had to be designed as they had entirely vanished. Both the south and north fronts of the nave have been mostly re-faced, and buttresses added where they had gone; nearly all the windows rebuilt, and eight new ones inserted in the formerly dark bays; some of the pillars almost rebuilt; the Rood Screen repaired and extended to the north wall; the whole nave re-paved with large flags and marble, and the eastern part of it filled with new oak stalls and seats, and a stone pulpit of unique design and carving; the old level of the

west bay reproduced, which, with the porches, had been for centuries filled up three feet higher, and which is now a unique feature in English Cathedrals. The south transept front and roof were found almost as ruinous as those of the nave when it was incidentally opened for gas pipes just before the completion of the nave. The turrets had been pronounced too ruinous to repair even in the last century, and the attempt was then given up. The window had succeeded a wooden one in 1833 of some previous "restorers," and even the wall under it was found too bad to rebuild on. Consequently, the whole front had to be taken down, and rebuilt on new and deep foundations, as suggested by Mr. Longmire, who has been Lord Grimthorpe's builder throughout, and for the committee also. Though the work is not done yet, it is easy to see that this south front will be more transformed from its former condition than the west internally, though not externally, as it has five lancet windows rising, of which we understand the central one will be taller than the famous Five Sisters of York ; and some of the Norman arches from the Slype are already rebuilt under the windows, and a still more beautiful Norman doorway, of which about half was found built up, like an erring Vestal, in the modern wall at the end of the Slype. The Slype itself will be restored, and will form a long porch for this new entrance to the transept, with a door at the east and windows at each end. The whole front is considerably wider than before, the staircase turrets projecting outside instead of inside and being larger than previously. The old high roof will be restored, as over the nave.

Lord Grimthorpe has designed no small number of other buildings, which include the enlargements of Lincoln's Inn Chapel and Library, and various churches in Yorkshire and

Staffordshire; the top of the tower of Worcester Cathedral; at Doncaster, St. James', St. Mary's Churches, and G. N. R. Schools; Lichfield, St. Mary's (except the tower); St. Paul's, Burton, for the late Mr. Bass; St. Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, built by his father and himself; a small church at Cliffe, in the East Riding; the Rectory, St. Albans, and several smaller buildings and parsonages mentioned in his interesting work, "A Book on Building," being a sequel to his "Lectures on Church Building." His last book is a new "Guide to St. Albans Cathedral and its Restoration," giving an account of it up to the re-opening of the nave in October, 1885, when the Archbishop of York, an old friend of Lord Grimthorpe, preached the sermon. His predecessor Wolsey was nearly the last Abbot of St. Albans. Lord Grimthorpe was also consulted about the restoration of Peterborough Cathedral, and in several letters in *The Times*, strongly opposed the decision of the Chapter to reject the advice of their architect and of the committee of subscribers, and to rebuild the tower as it was of much less than the original height, "and with two pointed arches, while everything else above and below and all around them are Norman, and it is the most completely Norman interior in all England."

Among his other works which have not already been enumerated may be mentioned the "Life of Bishop Lonsdale," his father-in-law; "On the Origin of the Laws of Nature;" "A Review of Hume and Huxley on Miracles;" "Should the Revised New Testament be Authorised?" and sundry pamphlets which have been widely circulated by different societies. Most of these—although not all—are on ecclesiastical law subjects. Lord Grimthorpe is also the author of some articles in the "Quarterly" and "Edinburgh" Reviews. In 1877 and 1883 he wrote a series of

letters in *The Times* against Trades Unionism, and at different times on other subjects. He has contributed all the legal and architectural articles in the last edition of Hook's Church Dictionary.

In 1845, he married Fanny Catharine, daughter of the late Right Rev. John Lonsdale (Bishop of Lichfield), and is himself descended from Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London, and from Bishop Wilson, of Bristol. He was made a peer, on the recommendation of Lord Salisbury, in February, 1886, and took his title from a family estate in Yorkshire, which had given a title to another Baron Grimthorpe in 1301, but not an ancestor of his. His father had long been the head of the Conservative party in Yorkshire, and the family have contributed no less than seven members to the Legislature in the last sixty years. The heir to the peerage, by special remainder "to the heirs male of the body of his father," is his brother, Mr. William Beckett, M.P., whose eldest son is also Member of Parliament for the Whitby Division of Yorkshire, and to whom the bank above-mentioned now belongs.

Of course, in and around the county of Hertford Lord Grimthorpe is thought of chiefly as the Abbey restorer. That he has bequeathed his name to posterity is saying only what everyone will agree with. But he has also accomplished something of far more weighty and enduring importance even than to have saved from the crumbling dust an architectural structure which now in point of beauty and strength of style dominates over the vast majority of ecclesiastical buildings in our land, and which, as the undertaking of an individual, shall evoke the wonder of succeeding ages. In the person of the restorer, we have a signal, but too rare, instance of a man of great wealth, and even

greater learning, bestowing his means with unlimited liberality not to win an evanescent reputation, but rather disdaining this, and in the face of discouragement spending nearly £100,000 for the good of a free church. He has saved from wasting demolition one of the historic edifices of the Church of England, and has preserved and imparted youth to the fragments of a venerable structure, thus linking together the sacred associations of the buried past with future schools of thought. Not less has he thus studied spiritual provision for the people of to-day, when such was necessarily also in jeopardy for the want of more adequate church accommodation. Then, wherein shall lie the reward of Lord Grimthorpe? A thinker of recognised power has said, "One good deed dying tongueless doth murder a thousand waiting upon it;" so that, as little as men of the pronounced individuality of Lord Grimthorpe care for public praise, great deeds demand acknowledgment and publicity in order that, if possible, emulation may be stirred up to secure, maybe, the imitation which is the sincerest form of flattery. Notwithstanding a general impression that there are some characteristics in his life not too amiable, his lordship has a noble and beneficent career to perpetuate, and who would like to say when the memory of such a man will perish? Doubtless to him the best satisfaction will be in the reflection that one portion of the work of preserving the Abbey after his own plans is *au fait accompli*. "Monuments," it has been said, "are never wanted, because those who deserve them can dispense with them;" but to Lord Grimthorpe's name there will be raised the better reward of the monument of inward gratitude on the part of succeeding generations. Since the time that he acquired the Bishop's Faculty to restore the Abbey, Lord Grimthorpe has relinquished no

effort, spared himself no personal labour, stinted no expense. Yet, is he universally liked? From the days of the "battles of the roof," down to the present hour, there are critics or cynics who first sneered at his proposals and now at his work. But he has shown himself thoroughly proof against all innuendoes or abuse. Most of his vigilant critics have been left to enjoy their own criticisms. We venture to believe the general public verdict upon his great labour of restoration will be that it is a success which commands the hearty appreciation of all. We do not mean to say that Lord Grimthorpe on his part will care much what the public think. But for all that, nothing can prevent popular feeling. Probably, where one person makes ancient architecture a crotchet, the multitude will be engrossed with what we will go the length of terming the more sensible consideration of having renewed to them a fine parish church. The quibbles as to whether the restorer has or has not violated any fine architectural principles in point of style will sink in the larger, and after all the main, point of a public building having been preserved and replenished with lavish bounty. When a man is found who is admitted to be himself a high architectural authority, and whose public integrity no one would dare to impeach, of what meagre importance doth this quibbling as to style become beside the magnitude of the public blessing conferred by bringing forth from a state of dilapidation a noble structure, so long as in the main it is a *fac simile* of the venerable building of old!

We conclude this biography of Lord Grimthorpe with the conviction that towards his lordship there exists cordial public appreciation, and, particularly in this County of Hertford, respectful admiration as much for his great learn-

ing and architectural skill as for his wealth. In St. Albans he has been the cause of hundreds of artizans obtaining long periods of employment at the Abbey works, and this of course has had a wide and wholesome effect, reaching to many sections of society who are at all times sensibly affected by the state of the labour market. And these grateful impressions are deepened when we consider his lordship's life with a view of every aspect, getting outside storms raised by F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., and other objectors, whose views come forth periodically and with almost the mechanical regularity of a Thibetan prayer-mill, as the columns of *The Times* testify, to assail the Abbey restorer ; and remembering, as we should, his great capacity for the discharge of public business, and the thoroughness which marks every piece of work to which he sets his hands. Even in respect to eminent men, we must be on our guard to abstain from expecting the virtues and accomplishments of gods ; all mortals have their failings, and if Lord Grimthorpe's public career is not without signs of austerity and too little amiability, these, after all, become only an idiosyncrasy by the side of all the other high distinctions of his character. And if we are to judge from the public apathy which meets the erudite critics who seek, but with conspicuous failure, to torment his lordship's life by questioning his authority in matters architectural, the opinion may be forgiven that to the great proportion of the public, Lord Grimthorpe is as distinctly the head among architects as Caliph Omar was Father of the Faithful.

Viscount Cranborne, M.P.

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THOUGH only twenty-five years of age, Viscount Cranborne, heir to the Marquess of Salisbury, is old enough to have been elected to two Parliaments, and therefore to have survived two General Elections. The interest attaching to his position in the political world is due largely, though by no means wholly, to his near relationship to the great Statesman, whose name is everywhere honoured as a firm and adroit party leader, but more especially as a patriotic Minister. Yet no small proportion of the respect the young Viscount enjoys is entirely of his own earning. It would of course be futile to traverse the opinion that he enters public life favoured with the magnificent advantage of being the eldest son of one whose place in English history is not less illustrious than it is gravely important.

Still the political inheritance is not exclusively luxurious, as Lord Cranborne is quite keen enough to appreciate. He has the benefit of popular sympathy as he steps forth into the arena, and becomes a pillar of the State; equally as real, however, is the serious public expectancy which has to be

met, even if it be not entirely satisfied, by those who succeed to great fortunes. There is certainly not much fear of Lord Salisbury's heir failing in at least striving to sustain the high reputation and unsullied name which come from long and unwavering services to the nation. It will undoubtedly be well-nigh impossible for the son to eclipse the father in point of an honourable and great career, but what is possible is to have the life governed by rules of strict rectitude and to fulfil life's mission unselfishly, according to the talents vouchsafed us. Achievements that are thus to be secured will, it is pretty certain, be the attainments of Lord Cranborne.

Born on October 23rd, 1861; educated at Eton, and at University College, Oxford; a Captain in the Herts Yeomanry Cavalry, and a J.P. for Herts; Viscount Cranborne has sat as M.P. for Darwen Division of north-east Lancashire since December, 1885. He has thus taken rank as a successful parliamentary candidate very early in years. The prize has come without any succession of disappointments such as many an older and perhaps equally wealthy man has endured, and endured without ever gratifying the ambition to serve his countrymen in the highest representative capacity.

To the observant it is an important epoch in the national life for any young man to start out on a public career under the auspicious circumstances as does Lord Cranborne. What to-day is the state of home and foreign politics? Each nation in turn avowing a righteous spirit of peace and declaring its goodwill to the whole world; yet at the very same moment every important Power arming *cap à pie*, and betraying too certain signs of suffering from alarming uneasiness and fear. Germany, from the mouth

of Prince Bismarck, proclaims in honeyed strains her sentiments respecting the horrors of war, and in the same breath calls out for warlike precautions. France, glorying in her Republican Government, is nestling with fraternal affection into the bosom of Holy Russia, the very paradise of political freedom, where of course the whims and caprice of the Czar never rise to the point of despotism. Bulgaria struggles for her independence, and we know how Russia assists these noble aspirations. England meanwhile begins to anticipate a great boom, and looks to her guns. At such a critical juncture history, not without thrilling and mighty incidents, is made, and the responsibility is not small that rests upon every member of the Legislature, whose vote and influence may materially mar or maintain the country's prestige and permanent welfare. It is therefore almost certain that Lord Cranborne is destined to take part in many matters of weighty concern.

He starts with the benefit of some of the best counsel and training, in which a conspicuous point has been made, we may be sure, of estimating sufficiently the duty which is incumbent on everyone whose vote and power must tell in the settlement of Imperial questions and of sustaining the dignity and honour of England, according to her best traditions.

In Home affairs there are the clearest indications of more political changes and fresh conflicts, fierce and far reaching. On the other hand, socially, the advancement of the times, of course, is undoubted. The world is moving onwards—the spirit for progress burns a steady light. The aspirations that 40 years ago dictated to Tennyson the line, "Let the great world spin for ever down the ringing grooves of change," have lost none of their potency, and the motives

that penned the "fifty years of Europe better than a cycle of Cathay" live in the forward spirit of to-day.

We abide in times of distress, agitation and turmoil, it is true; yet of a very different character from that which stimulated the inimitable diction of the Poet Laureate at the earlier period, when Carlyle for instance was beginning to meditate his Latter-Day Pamphlets, when Hood was singing his "Song of the Shirt," and Mrs. Browning was writing the "Cry of the Children." The advance in our social life since then is marked. The rights of the many have been improved; the status of men and women of all ranks has changed conspicuously.

Lord Tennyson in his last volume still speaks of the glooming alleys where "Progress halts on palsied feet;" but once outside the haunts of fœtid vice and sickly squalor, we see that drastic local sanitary reforms have accomplished great results; so that there are very few spots where the condition of man's existence justifies the Laureate's language. Notwithstanding pinching business rivalry the nation is, certainly as regards public health both of the mind and body, in a van of decided and genuine progress. Human ills of course flit across our path, like the obtrusion of gloom before anticipated and well-earned success, but the traditions of Great Britain are an incentive for us to rise above every intrusive wave of adversity—"Follow light and do the right —for man can half-control his doom."

In reviewing elsewhere the lives of those who have matured and grown old in the public service, the opportunity has been thought useful to take a retrospective survey of the national events occurring during the present century, and, similarly, a pause to glance at current tendencies has been made to note the special circumstances under which Lord

Cranborne, fresh with all the vigour of youth, goes forth into the angry scene of political uncertainties. The armour has been put on for active service in the field of politics from motives of duty and readiness for hard work. Lord Cranborne is no mercenary hireling. It is a distinct and even significant feature of the times that young noblemen of the position and affluence of the heir of Hatfield should present themselves to constituencies of their countrymen seeking election to Westminster, where days and nights are in bondage to the calls of party whips, and this in resistance to the youthful free lance spirit which might be excused for preferring, for instance, the grouse to the House, with its long hours of often stuffy and heavy proceedings. Of course there is an attractiveness in the glamour of politics; otherwise the heroic self-abnegation would indeed be immense.

As a public speaker Lord Cranborne has acquired considerable abilities, which as experience ripens will doubtless become still more marked and certain. He is fluent without being florid; vigorous, still not dogmatic, than which there is little that is more offensive from an old orator and much more from a young one; careful, watching his periods perhaps a little too much, and always earnest in all he says. His voice has already been heard more than once at St. Stephens, and on each occasion when he has "caught the Speaker's eye" it has been evident that the noble lord has taken the pains to look carefully into the intricate details surrounding many public questions, and has not devoted all his energies to the recreations and enjoyments of high life, however healthy such may be.

Lord Cranborne talks of course with authority, as one who understands his subject, and with this manner is allied another of equal force, manifesting with very good taste a

desire to respect nevertheless the views of older men. He is trenchant as a critic, as we may judge from the subjoined sentences which were included in an election address, delivered at one of Lord Grimston's meetings in the autumn of 1885, when so much was being said respecting Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy, and the death of General Gordon:—

"We saw expeditions which were failures, money spent without any result, blood shed like water, and yet no benefit accruing to any human being. Heroes were dying, their country refusing to help them; all this—the surrender in the Transvaal, the failure of expeditions, the fall of Khartoum, the death of the heroic General Gordon—resulting in no good to anyone, but bringing disgrace and disappointment, which will take years and tens of years to wipe out. The effect of that varying policy of the Gladstone Government was so great that it not only worked up the sentiment of this country, but it also broke into and destroyed the unity of the Liberal party. Such had been the guilt and political crime of the Liberal Government that their own party deserted them, although I am sorry to say it was only after they had month after month supported the Government against their own consciences, but at last even a moderate Liberal will turn, and when they bargained with their conscience no longer then the Gladstone Government was defeated—that Government which came in with such a glorious majority went out insignificantly in a minority of 18."

The debating power that he possesses is partly due to some valuable practice he availed himself of as a member of the Union at Oxford, during his University days. There he figured as one of the most important leaders of the Conservative party connected with the society, and from the exalted position occupied in Imperial politics by his noble father was at times enabled to address the house with greater force and information than that possessed by some other students.

Lord Cranborne is thus a splendid example of the actual results to be enjoyed from membership in a young men's debating society, where the proceedings are conducted with dignity and common sense. Besides affording invaluable instruction and training in methodising one's thoughts—and instance this by reading any of Lord Cranborne's speeches—the effect of attendance at these discussion classes is to promote self-control whilst under the spell and excitement of a controversy. A wider possession of particularly the latter accomplishment would ensure less irritation not only in Parliament but in Town Councils and board-rooms, and would positively tend to the expedition of public business.

Lord Cranborne, it is hardly necessary to say, is a Conservative, and, as regards Ireland, Unionist. He values fully a firm and wise Imperial policy, the consolidation of the Empire, the protection of the liberties of his countrymen here and abroad, together with the steady progress of the people at home. The national religion he holds sacred; to the Throne he has unswerving loyalty; not less, however, is he a staunch supporter of the rights and advancement of the "masses," for the removal of whose grievances he is ready to work persistently on sound and right lines of true and permanent amelioration.

His faith in an Imperial foreign policy is well exemplified in the following passage from one of his Hatfield speeches:—

"The Conservative party want you to support them in returning to the old national foreign policy as carried out by Lord Beaconsfield. It is that policy which secures for us peace and the good feeling of other nations; which, however, during Mr. Gladstone's rule, were entirely strange to us. Even during the short time the present Government have been in power we have been enabled to see the beneficent result of returning to that old national foreign policy."

One of the most pleasing incidents in the career of the young lord must have been the reception home he met with at Hatfield on his return immediately after his first success in the Darwen Division of Lancashire. The town regarded it as an occasion worthy of public rejoicing, for the respectful affection between the distinguished owner and family at Hatfield House and the local inhabitants is very real and deep.

Lord Cranborne was met at the railway station, the horses of his carriage unharnessed, and his lordship was drawn triumphantly through the town by the local brewers. Quite an imposing procession was formed with mounted police, band, fire brigade with their engine, members of the Conservative Club and also the Primrose League, and tenants on horseback. The streets were decorated, and in the evening there was an illumination and torchlight procession. A huge triumphal arch was erected at the entrance of the town leading to Hatfield House, and upon the arch, in bold white letters on crimson base, were the words, "Welcome, M.P." Proceeding along, the surprised lord was greeted with increasing outbursts of enthusiasm.

The scene was altogether an invigorating one. For an hour or two the day's rejoicings were suspended, and Lord Cranborne returned home to Hatfield House. It soon became a public fact, however, that he had consented to address the inhabitants from the club at six o'clock. Meanwhile the whole town was filled with commotion. An elaborate evening's programme had been devised, including a torchlight procession, and many were the busy hands completing the arrangements. All the Hatfield streets became illuminated with fancy devices. Shortly before the appointed hour a number of torchlight bearers proceeded to the south

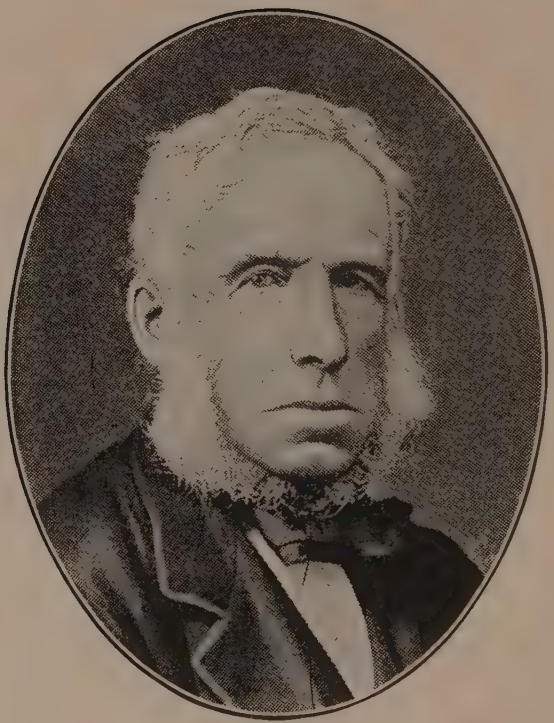
front of Hatfield House, and punctually Lord Cranborne appeared in company with the Hon. F. Curzon. A body guard of honour at once surrounded his lordship, and the procession was a very interesting one, there being altogether close upon a hundred torches burning. The company wended their way slowly and deliberately, national and party ditties being vigorously sung to the strains of the Luton band.

On arriving at the club, Lord Cranborne proceeded to the large room above, and from an open window addressed those in the streets as follows :—

"I have to thank you once again in this day of surprises for the hearty welcome which you have given me back to Hatfield to-day. I think if there were in store for all successful candidates such a reception as I have now received in Hatfield, it would lend nerve to the feeblest arm ; it would give courage to the faintest heart. And, gentlemen, I can assure you when I am received in this way, and as I have been received in the constituency which I have the honour now to represent, I feel that all the months of anxious effort which I have been compelled to give there are amply repaid, and I can only assure you that although I am a member of Parliament for the Darwen Division of Lancashire, yet in the discharge of my public duties I shall always take care never to forget the county of my birth. Rest assured, ladies and gentlemen, of my heartfelt thanks, and I may conclude by saying that, by wise policy and joint action, we may hope yet in the time to come to cause the enthusiasm of Conservatism to spread to the four corners of the British Empire."

One cannot close a sketch of this character without a few thoughts in respect of father and son. Comparisons which are usually odious would be doubly so in this instance. There are nevertheless similar indications of character, only in the one far more matured, and in the other awaiting

crystallisation. Born to wealth—*O fortunatus nimium et bona qui sua novit*—the Viscount, like the Marquess, rises above the selfish ease, which, though not to be encouraged, might be almost pardonable among those enjoying the independence of high social status. Whatever the distinctive and controversial description of their views, the spirit in which they enter upon politics, being quite beyond all the temptation of pecuniary emoluments, and having only service to give to the best of the abilities at their command, teaches an important human lesson. It is the parable of the talents. All the intellectual strength, as well as the physical endurance, of the man are exerted, not asking whether he shall be richer, or praised, or even happy, except so far as happiness attends unfailingly on the conscientious discharge of duty. Lord Cranborne, therefore, could not have prospects and opportunities much better, for with implicit obedience to them, all these better influences of life soon become well-nigh intuitive ; so that a career under these conditions must be noble, even if the unfolding circumstances of the future may not always permit it to be brilliant.



Sir John Lawes, Bart.

Sir J. B. Lawes, Bart.,

LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

MAN'S mission, often in its circumstances as various as the colours of the rainbow, is yet wholly contained in the one cardinal rule, to lessen mortal sorrow. To think of Sir J. B. Lawes is to think of years and years of plodding effort and steadfast application to the study of science as related to agriculture. With Sir John's high conceptions regarding researches of this character, carried on to lighten and relieve a most important branch of congested industry, thereby slackening the weight of earthly toil, scientific zeal does not indeed come short of public benevolence. The design is to afford succour to those against whom great odds press hardly in the fierce struggle of life.

The world is full of trouble. Carking care is the heritage of every generation. Civilisation moves onward with martial tread, deposing on its way one remnant after another of the abuses that fetter and grind down humanity; even civilisation, however, alone cannot dethrone, but rather encourages some commercial congestion, taking in agriculture in its sweep.

May we pass our summary judgment on the Nineteenth Century? It is a period of undoubted progress—in the development of healthy popular tastes, wider culture among the masses to the creation of just that appreciation of home luxuries which wipes out from humble domestic life every trace of squalor. In brief, it is an epoch of the amelioration of the people. But is this the only conspicuous feature of the times? Unfortunately it is not. There is a great set-off to this side of modern advancement. Give full estimate to the improved conditions of life, and still one striking characteristic, certainly of the decade, is the oppressive load of misfortune under which employment and trade pursue their course with unsteady step. Do we say the world is full of trouble? No one starts under the keen pang of disappointment and foiled efforts more than the average business man. Grief comes upon the soul of commerce and agriculture as much as upon the other soul of mortal man.

No industry is in a more critical state than that of agriculture. Those who read these pages may now spend half-an-hour with Sir J. B. Lawes, Bart., who has availed himself of his ample means to investigate how far a correct compliance with scientific laws can carry the almost forlorn British farmer towards his Elysium. No matter how prosaic in general is our temperament, probably we all occasionally encourage the weakness to build up our castles.

The agriculturist, for instance, coaxes himself that the enjoyment of fifty shillings per quarter for his wheat ought to be possible. The landlord, too, with his land, the tenant with the farm, and the labourer in his cottage, no more than all others with fluctuating incomes, each feels aggrieved because the approach of his Millennium halts. But we rub our eyes and wake up to the harsh realities of existence.

Have we been dreaming of wheat fetching in England fifty shillings per quarter! There may be a silver lining for the husbandman, but at present the price is thirty-five shillings!!

"The Sorrows of Agriculture" is a theme with which all must become acquainted who peruse a biography of Sir J. B. Lawes. We eat our bread and thank Providence for the cheap loaf; how our present fiscal policy (whether wise or unwise) has affected the vital industry of agriculture, and therefore necessarily the great arterial system of the country's commerce, is often dismissed without a thought.

The awakening, nevertheless, must come. To say that farming is unprosperous is merely to make a cold, phlegmatic statement, giving no adequate idea of the alarming depression which has spread all over the land. Agriculture in Great Britain is sapping away the very capital of those who till the soil, and has become as a disease to the very heart of commerce.

How many husbandmen have buried their wealth beneath the earth, manuring their holdings with gold, in the vain hope that they would succeed to a harvest which would recoup them well for the outlay! But the reward has not come, and thus at one time have great banking credit and stout hearts been broken; so that patient enterprise and honest toil have woo'd, and woo'd without ever wedding, the fair form of that fortune that ought to be the bride of capital and labour.

Is the betrothal of remunerative returns to English agriculture within the range of future possibilities? That is the problem towards the solution of which Sir J. B. Lawes has devoted untiringly a busy and long life. The career has been one of sheer hard work. The importance of

all that he has attempted lies concealed from any ostentatious or pretentious display. Together with Dr. Gilbert, his have been years of quiet but systematic study of the abtruse, and, for the nonce, very dull subject of agricultural chemistry—how to raise by scientific skill three or four bushels an acre more than would otherwise be produced.

Those who have had an opportunity of visiting the Laboratory at Rothamsted know very well how elaborate, even to being perplexing to the ordinary visitor, are all the arrangements for prosecuting the researches to which Sir John has set himself with fixed purpose. Defiant before difficulties, undaunted in the presence of disparaging whispers, strong in the inward consciousness of pursuing a worthy work, he has relaxed none of his assiduity nor spared any outlay to follow up the task he has taken in hand.

The inducement has been only that of steady and sober attachment to his subject—a devotion, turning from all the glare and glitter of great public fuss and caring for no blaze of distinction before the world, satisfied entirely with the honour that belongs to persistent and careful endeavour, but which opens the mind to great conceptions, filling it with many sublime ideas, and at the same time welling the soul with that warm joy peculiar to the pursuit of science.

Sir John Lawes happy is Sir John in and out of his experimental fields, examining his silos, using his weighing machines, seeing that his flocks and herds are fed and fattened by strict rule and measure, and taking care that everything is checked by patient analytical and botanical and arithmetical work.

No one appreciates more than he does that agriculture is not an art which can be revolutionised by any sudden discovery. He plods on, together with Dr. Gilbert, accumulat-

ing data every hour and minute. In his Laboratory a perfectly systematised series of analyses are for ever going on. The work is never intermittent. It is quite an important and serious business occupation, sustained for the purpose of improved agriculture, the whole of the great cost of the establishment falling on Sir John, who in no way receives any pecuniary return.

In the private Laboratory the finer chemical operations are carried on by expert analysts, of whom Mr. R. Warington, F.R.S., is the chief. During the last twenty-five years the staff has consisted of one, two, and sometimes three chemists, with two or three general assistants for routine work, and to superintend the field experiments, such as making the manures, measuring the plots, applying the manures, weighing and sampling the crops, and so on. Sometimes a special botanical assistant is employed, with several boys under him. These separate the grasses, and do other work preparatory to the more strictly chemical investigations. There are besides four computers and record-keepers regularly employed in what may be called the counting-house, and there are of course a number of labourers specially engaged to carry out the field experiments; many more than would be required in ordinary farming operations. Finally, it may be mentioned that outside chemical assistance is often employed for the conduct of any unusual experiments.

Let us take a sample of the experiments. For forty-three years in succession wheat has been grown in a field of fourteen acres. The numerous crops are treated with different manures. The land, which at the outset was fair average wheat-land, was divided into 22 longitudinal sections, the intention being to devote two each, side by side, to experi-

mental cultivation. The crops of wheat once every five years on similar land on farms in the immediate neighbourhood yielded averages from 25 to 27 bushels per acre. Exact uniformity of experiment was not adopted until after the ninth year, and as may be supposed the variability of seasons greatly influenced the results. It must be taken into account that previous to 1843, when these trials were begun, the land had been occupied with turnips, barley, peas, wheat, and oats since the last application of manure, and was therefore considered fairly exhausted.

Well, in this one direction, what have been the results? These, to be properly appreciated, need to be taken in conjunction with other influences. For instance, witness evidently the caprice of the weather. In 1853 the unmanured plot yielded 5 bushels 3¼ pecks per acre, while in 1863, after ten more years of exhaustion, the yield was 17 bushels one peck. But, on the other hand, the manured plots show as striking a contrast. In 1853, where farmyard manure was employed, there were 19 bushels, and 44 bushels in 1863; whilst some of the artificially manured plots varied from 23 to 55 bushels in the respective years.

The general result arrived at shows that on the plot on which wheat has been grown continuously without any manure whatever, an average crop of 13 one-eighth bushels to the acre has been obtained; from land dressed every year with farmyard manure the yield has averaged 33½ bushels; with mixed mineral manure alone, 15¼ bushels; with mixed mineral manure, and 43 lbs. of nitrogen in the form of ammonia salts to the acre, 24 one-eighth bushels; by increasing the proportion of ammonia in the same form to 86 lbs. per acre, 32¾ bushels; and by adding a further 43 lbs. of nitrogen (in the form of ammonia salts), the yield was

only increased to 36¼ bushels. This last experiment, as *The Chemist and Druggist* in a very valuable article some time since pointed out, seemed to demonstrate that the extreme limit at which ammonia can be used at a profit had been reached at somewhere about 400 lbs. of ammonia salt (= 86 lbs. nitrogen) to the acre.

Animal nutrition has also been the subject of extensive experiments. For a technical and well-arranged statement of the results it is useful here to note again the opinion of *The Chemist and Druggist.* Oxen, sheep, and pigs were experimented upon ; altogether two calves, two heifers, 14 bullocks, one lamb, 249 sheep, and 59 pigs were specially fed, and the amount and relative development of the different organs and parts were determined.

Food was given of definite weight, in some cases, and, in others, certain kinds of food were allowed *ad libitum.* The composition of all kinds of food was determined by analysis. The animals were kept in special enclosed spaces, and all offal, &c., was carefully collected, weighed, and analysed ; in the case of fæces, dry matter, ash, and nitrogen were determined, and in urine these and urea were estimated. Loss of matter by exhalation and respiration was determined by difference.

At the end of the period of experiment, some of the animals were killed, and complete analyses were made of the entire carcases of ten of them, and in others the percentages of water, mineral matter, fat, and nitrogenous substances were determined in separate parts. In the case of the ten animals complete analyses of the ashes were also made.

Samples of all the products are still kept in the gallery, and, although the fat is somewhat the worse for age, an enthusiastic scientist who visited Rothamsted a year or two

ago persisted in having soup made from one sample. A judicious admixture of garden herbs helped to make a very palatable dish, which was done full justice to.

The most important conclusion arrived at from these experiments was that for the purpose of fattening stock animals for the market non-nitrogenous food is more to be depended upon than nitrogenous. It was long held that the fat of herbivora was derived from fat which existed in the plants which they consumed. Liebig disputed this, and asserted that it was derived from carbohydrates, such as starch, sugar, &c., and Lawes and Gilbert's experiments fully confirm this view ; but they have also disproved Liebig's assumption that the value of food to the animal is to be measured by the amount of nitrogen which it contained.

"The Park," a patch of meadow land about seven acres in extent, since 1856 has been devoted entirely to experiments on meadow grass. It is divided into 22 plots, two of which have been unmanured, the rest manured, for the thirty years, some continuously with the same kind of manure. The unmanured plots show plants belonging to 22 natural orders, which again are found to represent 63 genera and 89 species. Some of these are rare, so that the number of species commonly observable is about 50 to 60. Weighed samples of each crop are taken to the Laboratory and dried, and the botanical assistants then separate the species, which, in their turn, are weighed. At the end of the Laboratory a large glass case contains actual specimens from such analyses, and this more graphically than any other way shows the results of different fertilisers. Three facts are particularly prominent : (1) That the natural meadow hay is the best mixed food-stuff ; (2) that ammonia salts drive off leguminous plants and bring up gramineæ to a high

standard; and (3) that potash manures have quite the opposite effect of ammonia.

Experiments on animal feeding, with beetroot growing, and more recently on ensilage, have also to be added to the open-air researches; and all of these, it must be understood, are followed up, checked, and worked out fully by laborious investigations in the Laboratory and calculation-room. Whatever crop is being experimented upon is weighed in its entirety; mixed for sampling, and percentages drawn from it. These samples are taken to the Laboratory, where the real chemical work begins; soils are analysed, meteorological conditions observed and recorded by proper apparatus, and every stage of the work repeated year after year for a long series of years before any results of true liability can be deduced.

Sir John Lawes's work has not been without public recognition. Grateful for the services he has rendered to British agriculture, a large sum of money was raised as a testimonial about the year 1854, and it was first suggested that the presentation should take the form of a gift of plate. At Sir John's own request, however, the money was applied to the building of a new Laboratory, to facilitate and extend the researches in which he was engaged.

In 1855 the Laboratory was handed over to him, then Mr. Lawes, in the presence of the subscribers, the Earl of Chichester presiding. From the speech then delivered, the following extract serves to show Sir John's own opinion of his labours at that time :—

"Science will not enable you to grow two grain crops in one year, but it may give you such information respecting the principles of manures as will enable you to turn over your capital in a much smaller space of time than you do at

present. A great deal of your capital is placed in the land, where it lies dormant for a long time, but science may correct that evil by enabling you to put the right manure in the right place. It is sometimes said that farmyard manure possesses an advantage over artificial manures in its great lasting qualities, but this is a fallacy. The lasting qualities of farmyard manure are not an advantage, for it is getting back your money by instalments instead of getting it all at once. What is your farmyard manure but so many tons of oilcake and turnips? If a man owed you £1000, would you prefer having it all at once or in ten instalments of £100 a year? The artificial manure pays ready money, the farmyard manure pays by instalments. The application of science to feeding is only another phase of the same principle. We give you the knowledge which will enable you to pursue the course which will be the most profitable to you. . . I should be most ungrateful were I to omit to state how greatly I am indebted to those gentlemen whose lives are devoted to the conduct and management of my experiments. To Dr. Gilbert more especially I consider a debt of gratitude is due from myself and from every agriculturist in Great Britain. It is not every gentleman of his attainments who would subject himself to the caprice of an individual, or risk his reputation by following a science which has hardly a recognised existence. For twelve years our acquaintance has existed; and I hope twelve more years will find it continuing."

Sir John Bennet Lawes was the son of a country squire. He was born in 1814, and was educated at Eton and Oxford. He succeeded to the possession of a beautiful though not a large estate when he was twenty years old, and a year later he left Oxford and commenced his career as a scientific agriculturist. In 1842, then Mr. Lawes, he took out his patent for the manufacture of the famous fertiliser which has for many years had an immense reputation all over the world as Lawes's Superphosphate, and which he began to manufacture at works near London in 1843.

Out of those works Mr. Lawes no doubt made a hand-

some fortune. He has been dissociated from any business interest in the manufacture for many years, the works known by his name being now under the control of a Company. Long after the patent had expired, the Company were turning out more than 40,000 tons of superphosphate annually, and there were then and are now many other works of the same kind of great capacity.

Mr. Lawes was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1854, and a similar honour was conferred on Dr. Gilbert in 1860, and in 1867 the Royal Society presented a Royal Medal to these gentlemen in association, in recognition of their eminent services in connection with agricultural chemistry. The Society of Arts and the Imperial Agricultural Society of Russia have also awarded medals to Sir John Lawes. A baronetcy was conferred upon him in 1882, and in 1877 the University of Edinburgh bestowed upon him the honorary degree of LL.D.

Sir John Lawes has toiled for forty years, and the enquiry is not an unnatural one, What is the net result? No startling volcanic change has been brought about, and what has been attained has come in the form of scientific data. But Sir John is not desponding, and that he is imbued with the conviction his elaborate series of analyses are worth pursuing is unmistakable from the fact of his having set apart £100,000 and certain acres of land, to provide for the continuance of the investigations after his death.

There is therefore Hope at Rothamsted. Like the old poet Linus, Sir John thus teaches us to hope for everything that is good, even in the teeth of looming adversity. This spirit of tranquil confidence comes in striking contrast to the pessimist cry of agriculturists generally. The latter certainly

have good grounds for their mournful tones; yet to the casual student this would seem only the stronger reason for the relaxation of the expensive experiments at Rothamsted, since agriculture, we are told, must become extinct, under the existing fiscal policy. Sir John's steady adherence to his life-work, therefore, brings out strongly the sanguine sayings of Cæsar. Now, in the decline of life, when nearly half-a-century has been passed in prosecuting on scientific lines the search for agricultural prosperity, and when more than one fortune has been absorbed in the pursuit—"What hast thou left, Sir John?" The answer comes, testified by provident provision for future operations, "Hope."

To those who have employed agriculture as a speculative investment, and who want a substantial *quid pro quo* for money laid out, all this probably seems too intangible. Where is agriculture to look for relief? Among the husbandmen themselves there is only a confusion of tongues. Some point to the readjustment of taxation, or to the reduction of rent, others declaim with loud voice for Fair Trade, and to this not less furiously does the great "No" issue forth from many.

It would at least cause some diversion if Jupiter's second proclamation could actually be availed of by farmers, that each is now at liberty to change the affliction of his life. We should witness those who are strongly enamoured of Reciprocity in the direst agony, according to the disciples of Free Trade; the Free Trader sinking irretrievably in the mire of foreign rivalry, if we regard the urgent tones of the Fair Trader; rural clergy, instead of having their tithe, bridled with an iron yoke, as a reproach for their heinous sins of the past; landlords "liberated" from the burden of their rent-rolls, because land has swallowed up not only interest but

capital ; and taxes perhaps revised on similar lines. The revolution would be great, if nothing more. Meanwhile, the placid and perservering Sir John Lawes would be pursuing the even tenor of his way at Rothamsted. God speed the plough !

Mr. Abel Smith, M.P.

ENJOYING distinction as the senior county member, the public career of this gentleman dates from the year 1854; so that it will at once be seen that his debût as a Member of Parliament carries us back to a memorable period.

Just as Lord Aberdeen, over confident of the security of peace, was drifting into the Crimean war, Mr. Smith was returned for the County of Hertford. The influences, therefore, that were busy in shaping his character and personal opinions were those that figure boldly on the pages of history. Side by side with what appeared to our subject as want of decision and fatal lack of firmness on the part of Lord Aberdeen, whose name is held responsible for the outbreak of war followed by dire agonies and harrowing incidents, the memory of which afflicts the soul with grief, there was still fresh before the mind the example, unique and forcible, of the Duke of Wellington.

The speeches of the Member for the Hertford Division are not without some hearty tributes of homage to the Iron Duke, making *en évidence* the warmth of Mr. Abel Smith's attachment to Napoleon's English foe and conqueror. Evidently,

Mr. Abel Smith, M.P.

Carlyle expressed no one's sentiments better than Mr. Smith's when he sketched the Duke with attributes of graceful simplicity, veracity, and nobleness—truly a beautiful old man, perfectly honest and brave.

For instance, one of the most conspicuous points in the election addresses at Hertford during the sharp contest in the autumn of 1885 was the Conservative candidate's allusions to Wellington :—

"It seems as if until lately," were the words used by Mr. Smith in September, 1885, when criticising the Gladstonian Government for vacillation, "we have not had men of courage and wisdom at the head of affairs, and I hope now that we seem to have got those who have been raised up by the Almighty with wisdom and courage, that the country will be sensible enough to recognise the desirability of continuing them in office. In former times we have had the Duke of Wellington to face Napoleon Bonaparte. The Duke gave us peace for forty years ; and we also had Lord Palmerston. We want men of that calibre in order that we may ensure the return to prosperity of our country, which can only be brought about by defending our great possessions, and defending the great name of our country abroad. We are not always to be apologising. The late Government was known as a Government of apologies."

These reflections grow in gravity as we turn the kaleidoscope and move from 1854 to 1887. The forty years' peace which the Duke gave us, if it had not long since come to a termination, would seem likely to be succeeded by another great Continental struggle. History threatens to repeat itself. Mr. Abel Smith's entrance into Parliament thirty years ago was about coeval with the commencement of the cruel sufferings which marked the Crimean war ; we conclude the retrospect and anticipate a few years'—may be, only a few months'—national experience, and—will the forebodings of another bloody outbreak be fulfilled ?

Mr. Smith's own views of the best way to avert such a deplorable and sanguinary conflict is to be well prepared for war. But there is nothing more certain than that he, not less than the great and preponderating opinion of the entire country, is averse to these appeals to bayonets and gunpowder, to 80-ton guns and torpedoes, with which one branch of the human family seek to annihilate those of another community. In Imperial politics we have here a Parliamentary representative who is essentially a man of peace by choice; on the defensive, however, a John Bull, who prizes his national possessions.

As a public speaker, Mr. Abel Smith is candid and clear, frequently borrows from the lessons of modern history and applies their significance to fortify the points he wishes to establish, is seldom dull, and certainly never inflated. It is his characteristic to be weighty in argument rather than voluble in style. Wisely sacrificing all flippant oratory of that order which searches for a passing cheer by a sarcastic or shallow examination of the opponent's cause, he gives himself completely over to a dignified utterance of principles which he believes to be those of a sound political creed. He does not try to make capital by the frequently adopted though not too scrupulous *modus operandi* of merely sneering at the course pursued by antagonistic politicians. He has not sat in Parliament for over thirty years without appreciating the imprudence and weakness of such a mode of procedure. When he speaks ostensibly as a politician he makes an honest and careful dissection of the whole political creed as practised and professed by the two great parties.

To an agricultural community like Hertfordshire it is of course of special importance to have as representatives those who are in complete and close sympathy with the difficulties

and trials which surround modern husbandry. Such a subject of course cannot be entered upon to any purpose without opening up the whole complex disorders with which Nineteenth-century commerce is attacked.

Though Mr. Smith is by no means a pretentious speaker, he has the great merit of being thoughtful, and whenever one goes to hear him it may be taken as certain that it will not be without coming away with fresh and perhaps some distinctive ideas. Now that the Report of the Royal Commission on Trade and Agriculture has been well studied and discussed by the country, it will be as well, whilst we are glancing at the career of Mr. Abel Smith, to note his own personal attitude towards the question of the constitution of the Commission.

It is merely a matter of history that when this body was appointed in 1885, by a Conservative Administration, the Liberal party held aloof on the ground that the object in view was only to throw dust in the eyes of the people and thus tide over the General Election; or, that it was a surreptitious support to Fair Trade. Certainly those who then held these views must now think the Report a very singular one as coming from "A Fair Trade Commission," since the majority have signed what are accepted and made much of as essentially Free Trade proposals. On this topic Mr. Smith, in 1885, said :—

"There are a great many things which the Royal Commission intend to enquire into—the extent of the depression and also into its cause, as well as to try to find a remedy. There are a great many enquiries to be made, such as with regard to the foreign trade, as to the great number of luxuries brought in from foreign countries which come in free to this country. And then there are enquiries to be made as to manufactured articles coming into this country—£56,000,000 in the year 1883, and of that large sum half of it, or about

£22,000,000, paid in wages. That shows how the working classes are interested in this enquiry. There are enquiries also necessary as to the effect of our loss of labour, on trade and labour, the control of estate over labour, and the taxation to which we are subject compared with the taxation of foreign countries. There are also enquiries to be made as to the taxes on the farmers' industry which are very heavy, whilst those industries which the English farmer competes with abroad do not have to bear those heavy burdens. During the five years Mr. Gladstone has been in office he has done nothing at all to help forward the agricultural interests. All these burdens—the relief of the poor, taxation, and highways—have to be considered, for they ought not to be borne by one interest alone."

Mr. Abel Smith is a sound Churchman, yet cannot be justly accused of religious any more than political bigotry. With regard to the Disestablishment controversy, he holds that the endowed property of the Church of England should be held sacred. It is not, he contends, whether these funds were given to the Church at the time of the Saxon Kings, early in our history, or during the last fifty years—he does not think that signifies at all, because the money was given to the cause of religion, and should be treated with the same respect and protected with equal vigilance as other property.

He is deeply imbued with the conviction, that this matter of national religion carries with it the prosperity of the country, that the Church of England indeed is a bulwark against Atheism and irreligion. He has, however, liberal religious feelings towards the Dissenting community, and has more than once appealed to moderate Liberals and large-hearted Nonconformists, since their opinions will not permit them to join the Church, to work in sensible co-operation to stem the flood of ignorance and infidelity which he regrets to think still exists in our large towns.

The question thus raised of the possibility for Churchmen

and Nonconformists to engage with reciprocal good feeling in Christian enterprise, after all resolves itself into one of more complete self-effacement. It is the absence of that qualification that ever allows the creation of so much friction between those who are avowedly aiming to fulfil the same mission and glorify the same Almighty. When this point is more fully realised and dwelt upon, it is not short of marvellous to think of the acrid and vitriolic passion that is frequently shown from one set to another—"How much these Christians love one another!"

Mr. Abel Smith, therefore, is not alone in his aspiration for greater good-fellowship in this direction. Proper self-discipline would generally set aside all hindrances that might confront such a consummation. Of course, very much depends upon what men take to be their life's purpose. If they should suppose they are destined simply to perpetuate and worship pet theories, or to preserve unimpaired the traditional teachings of their particular "schools," they may possibly succeed in going through their days constantly becoming obtrusive, and thinking more of man's code of thought than the Maker's glory.

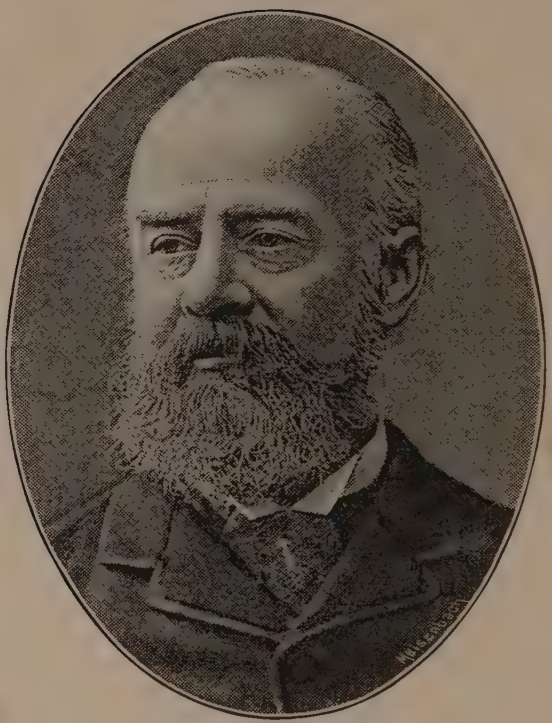
But, as in the earthly so in the great spiritual warfare, they are not best fitted for the fray who think most of weapons; it is more important to be able to adapt our arms for the victory that is to be gained. We have that well illustrated in the siege of Troy, when the greatest of all warriors who then went forth had not the pre-eminence because nature had given him strength and he carried the largest bow, but because self-discipline had taught him how to bend it.

So in the religious world, even if we still heard as much of Disestablishment, yet a more effective stringency over

selfish feelings would tend to Christian union at least on topics which constitute a common cause, such as the dethronement of vice. Mr. Abel Smith's olive branch is therefore worthy of a hearty acceptance, and should suggest a general wide adhesion for the accomplishment of ends which ought to appear good to all who are occupied with religious endeavours. Whilst Christians are quarrelling evil stalks abroad—

> "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien
> As, to be hated, needs but to be seen ;
> Yet, seen too oft, familiar with her face,
> We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Mr. Abel Smith's career has not been one filled with incidents that thrill the blood by dramatic surprises—his has been the position of a country gentleman sustaining his part before the public with dignity ; and though not striving to be great, as the world considers a man is great, by deeds whose report vibrates through the world and sets nations agog, yet he has always endeavoured to discharge completely and without any parade or display the duty that lies at hand.



Mr. T. F. Halsey, M.P.

Mr. T. F. Halsey, M.P.

LOYALTY to conscience before loyalty to party is, in brief, the verdict to be passed on the public life of Mr. T. F. Halsey, M.P. He is certainly not a politician of shifty ideas nor with a mind so punctilious to an overburdening extent, as make the support of some others such as can never be relied on. In opposition to those who are

> "Stiff in opinion, always in the wrong,
> Everything by starts and nothing long,"

he seems intuitively to steer into a manly and honest course.

He is a gentleman moderate in politics, who steadily adheres to a policy, which if it be not always faultless is at least clear and well-defined. The consequence is his views become so well understood that on the occurrence of any new public question Mr. Halsey's attitude may be prejudged with pretty tolerable certainty. This is in contrast to those whose political ideas are always written down as "uncertain quantities," and whose line of action therefore invariably forms a fine foundation for speculation. This very consistency of his parliamentary conduct, together with

his preference for following the dictates of his own inward monitor when that occasionally is in revolt against the calls of party whips, have lead to some few instances when he has voted against the following of his party.

It was in 1874 that Mr. Halsey was first returned for the county; he is therefore the second senior member for Hertfordshire. Since the Redistribution Bill, and the consequent division of the county, he has represented the Watford electoral constituency. Probably the severest contest he has survived was the one during the General Election of 1885, when he was hotly opposed by Mr. Faudel Phillips. The exigencies of the fight, in the way of taxing candidates' time and temper, their speaking abilities and lung power, were felt in all seriousness in the Watford district. The one great distinguishing feature of Mr. Halsey's campaign was the natural coolness sustained whilst passing through the many storms for which the season was notable; his urbanity and pleasant manner despite the successive scenes of turbulence which were the outward indications that political feeling ran high.

Those who attended some of Mr. Halsey's meetings during the General Election of 1885 are not likely soon to forget the excitement and enthusiasm which were the disturbing elements at many of the public gatherings, both at Watford and in the rural districts. To the mature and aged these must have been occasions vividly suggestive of those animated husting scenes peculiar to the "old electioneering days," when there was none of your modern carelessness now sometimes exhibited towards the issue of the struggle. A Parliamentary election then was the occasion for broken skulls as well as for the intensest interest to be taken in the individuality of the candidates. The comparatively peace-

able and orderly manner in which elections generally are now conducted form a remarkable contrast to the heated and angry contests in the early part of the century. Amidst intense political excitement it was not then rare for riot to prevail, paving stones to be uplifted and hurled along the streets, sending wayfarers fleeing into the nearest shops for shelter, nor was it any uncommon thing for gangs of men with their formidable bludgeons to go about perpetrating assaults of a cruel character. It is quite true that these were not the days of a free ballot, for the electors were often barricaded in their houses, this being done with a view to preventing them from recording their votes, and amongst other disturbances smashing of windows formed but a trivial part. So that when modern elections reach the abnormal severity that characterised the one at Watford in 1885, we have only to recall the still greater violence of "the good old days" gone by and be thankful.

Mr. Halsey's very physical countenance is a faithful photograph of the ardour and generous impulse of his heart. Warm-blooded, he is always good natured; appreciating the keenness of modern suffering and distress, he is as surely sympathetic; not unmindful of the connection between effects and causes, he is the steady friend of the true welfare of the people. Thus it is his speeches all bear the indelible impress of strong and deeply sown sympathies, and this in bold relief to the too frequent style of latter day oratory which issues forth from cold-blooded actors on life's stage, who are machines rather than beings. Mr. Halsey does not sacrifice common sense nor the tenets of sound political principles, but any one of his utterances, delivered in his sonorous and inviting tones, carries with it the ring of language that is not prompted by studied tact nor the

scheming of a professional politician, but is unmistakably the spontaneous speech born of lively convictions and sincere, powerful emotions.

We may take it that in some respects the keynote of Mr. Halsey's undoubted success before public gatherings is that he inculcates those principles, the truth and importance of which he firmly believes in. They are principles that he has faith in not merely speculatively, but with an emphatic and serious feeling. The best of all eloquence is attained, though the diction and periods be simple and even defective, when they are accompanied by positive sincerity and heartiness; for, as Dr. Blair reminds us, no man can be persuasive who does not utter the *vera voces ab imo pectore*, giving forth the expressions of his own convictions and his own sentiments.

With Carlyle, we much prefer this to the insipid style of those whose only worship is of "correct reasoning." The Chelsea sage, in 1873, told us that nothing was to be lost by missing the autobiography of Mill, because it was wholly "the life of a logic-chopping machine, little more of human in it than if it had been done by a thing of mechanised iron." With such a judgment before us, we can afford to be lenient, even towards glaring discrepancies of oratory, if actually there are any, and welcome gladly the man of genial life, whose language is hearty and convincing. The political utterances of the Member now for the Watford Division, though chiefly conspicuous for these qualities, contain also many evidences that Mr. Halsey is well accomplished in the art of public speaking.

Mr. Thomas Frederick Halsey is the son of the late Mr. Thomas Plumer Halsey (who sat as M.P. for Herts, 1847, 1848, and 1852), by his marriage with Frederica, daughter

of the late General Frederic Johnston, of Hilton. The subject of this notice was born on the 9th December, 1839, at Temple Dinsley, near Hitchin, which place his father rented on his marriage. In 1845 his father bought The Hall, Great Berkhamsted (now the residence of Capt. Constable Curtis), and moved there, from Temple Dinsley, in December of that year. The late Mr. Halsey, with his wife and second son, were drowned on the night of the 24th April, 1854, in the collision, near Antibes, between the steamers *Sicilia* and *Ercolano*, whilst proceeding in the latter from Genoa to Marseilles.

On the death of his parents, the Hall, Berkhampstead, was sold, and Mr. Halsey took up his abode at Gaddesden Place with his grandmother, the late Mrs. Moore Halsey. Mr. Halsey was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated, B.A., 1861 ; M.A., 1864. He married 28th September, 1865, Mary Julia, youngest daughter of the late F. O. Wells, Esq. On the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Moore Halsey, on 25th April, 1869, he succeeded to the Halsey family estates, and has since resided continuously at Gaddesden Place. He was elected Member of Parliament for Herts at the General Election, 1874, and again, without opposition, at the General Election of 1880. At the General Election after the Reform Acts of 1885, he was returned as Member of Parliament for the Western or Watford Division of Herts, and was re-elected without opposition in 1886. He has given a steady but independent support to the Tory party during his whole Parliamentary career. He was appointed Captain North Herts Yeomanry Cavalry, 1862; Captain South Herts Yeomanry, 1865; Major Herts Yeomanry Cavalry, 1872 ; Honorary Lieut.-Colonel, 1886.

The Hon. Baron Dimsdale, M.P.

IT would be no difficult matter to fill a portly volume if one entered upon the work of chronicling in full all the events that have crowded into the career of the Hon. Robert Baron Dimsdale. Having been more or less a public man for over thirty years, with a seat in Parliament at various times since 1866, the present member for the Hitchin Division of Hertfordshire has a record reminding us how much can be performed in one lifetime, with the assistance of industry and good health.

To take first of all the point that perhaps stands out most decided, he is one whose educational attainments rise distinctly above the level of simply indicating the routine of University study. Besides being learned in the sense that most Oxford or Cambridge men are learned, he has acquired unmistakably the power of concentrating original thought and personal examination into some of the most intricate problems of the day. This, developed during life, has made him really eminent as an author and valuable as a weighty critic. He not only looks at subjects: he looks *into* them. Making good use of his time as a young student, busy in

THE HON. BARON DIMSDALE, M.P.

mature age as a public man, his years and months and days have always been well occupied. To state in one breath the tasks he has even now in hand is almost startling. They are multifarious and honorary. He is Vice-Chairman of the Herts Quarter Sessions; Chairman of the Hertford Conservative Association; Chairman of the Hertford Local Examinational Board; Secretary of the Hertford Labourers' Friend Society; Chairman of the North Herts branch of The Small Holdings and Allotments Association; a memb of The Diocesan Board of Education; also of The Church Defence Association. And with one of Baron Dimsdale's calibre membership does not mean simply a support to these movements only in the way of a friendly countenance—the annual contribution to condone for personal torpor; but with him membership implies hearty and active efforts.

Add therefore the strain of all these offices to the still greater pressure of modern Parliamentary service, besides also the close attention needed to the minute details that accumulate before the Committees of the County Justices, and we then have in one focus the self-imposed obligations of the Hon. Baron Dimsdale. Though his experiences in the various capacities he fills, particularly as a Parliamentary representative, have not been without some enthusiastic and even thrilling episodes, he would be the last person to regard his career as exactly a brilliant one. He has not been a Cabinet Minister, nor a load-star in the sense of having had his name for a season in everyone's mouth as a Member who has either convulsed or held in suspense the political world. To live in history by such means has not been his ambition. It is not saying more than is positively true, however, that if Baron Dimsdale had ever cared to edge his way into office he possesses qualifications the exercise of which would have

made him a Statesman of sound and sterling worth. The remarks we make in a later portion of this review, in reference to him as author of "A Sketch of the History of India," specially go to substantiate this view as to the valuable and solid description of his principles and also his training.

But he has been content with less display, and the gain has been on the side of Hertfordshire. His strength, instead of being given to the pursuit of prizes that are searched for along the thorny path of official existence, has been left free for county work. In this sphere his reputation is complete as a gentleman who fulfils thoroughly and honourably anything to which he sets his hands. The robust vigour which the Baron seemingly enjoys is thus additional testimony that men thrive upon busy labour. Like many others who in their day served in more conspicuous stations of life, our subject delights in continuous diligence. The result of these habits, too, is felt whenever he takes part in public affairs. When he contributes to a controversy, or adds an instalment to the speeches on the occasion of any ceremony or special proceedings, or goes forth to bear the brunt of an electoral contest, he is consequently always well equipped. He has at hand just the apposite reference wanted, perhaps the particular knowledge of historical data with which to refute an opponent's interruption, and always the fluency that makes his utterances a rhetorical power, in point of there being ample material judiciously clothed in suitable and stirring language.

The Hon. Baron Dimsdale was born at Tolmers, in the parish of Hatfield, in 1828. He is the sixth Baron, succeeding to his father, Charles John, in 1872. The first Baron was an English physician, who acquired great reputation for his skill in inoculating for the smallpox. He was invited to the

Court of Russia, and inoculated the Empress Catherine and her son the Grand Duke, receiving for these services large pecuniary rewards, and being appointed also an actual Councillor of State and created a Baron of the Empire.

The present Baron was educated first at the Rev. B. Peel's, Northcotts, Hatfield, and among his schoolfellows was the present Lord Derby. In 1841 he went to Eton, then under the headmastership of Dr. Hawtrey; in 1846, to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, the college of Arnold and Keble. This was towards the end of the Oxford Movement, Newman having seceded in 1845, as Manning, Faber, and others, did in 1850. In 1849 he took his degree. While at Oxford he frequently took part in the debates of the Union, of which he was for some time secretary. Chief among the Conservative speakers was Lord Salisbury, then a more pronounced Conservative than he now is, Lord Brabourne, who then held the views to which he has subsequently reverted, and Mr. Ward Hunt. The Baron himself was a moderate Conservative. Among the Liberal speakers there was no one who gained any after notoriety, except Professor Conington.

On leaving Oxford he returned to Essendon, to which his father had moved from Tolmers in 1834. Till the time of his marriage he had chambers in the Temple; but he was not called to the Bar. There is a reference to him at this time as a person interested in religious and social questions in "The Life of Rev. F. D. Maurice." In 1853 he married Cecilia Southwell, and now began to pay increased attention to county affairs. In 1853 he became a member of the Herts Conservative Association; 1854, a Magistrate for Herts and Middlesex.

One of his earliest public appearances as Mr. R. Dimsdale

was in 1853, the same year as his marriage, when he lectured at Hatfield and Hertford, giving "A Sketch of the History of India." Then only twenty-five years of age, his literary productions contained clear evidences of a mind well-trained and specially capable of a thoroughly intelligible grasp of vast historical subjects, as well as unmistakable power for discriminations between the secret and subtle influences that affect great national experiences and those more ostensible and professed causes that work out vital public changes.

This mental acquirement of piercing beneath the surface and catching correctly the impulse and motives of men who figure prominently on the page of history, in addition to merely understanding the obvious acts of their lives, is seen very plainly in the details of Mr. Dimsdale's "Sketch of the History of India." Once printed in book form that production became prized wherever it was possessed as a work that affords high and valuable aid to the study of the rise and progress of India. Though it be full of particulars it is a brochure by no means limited to a narration of dates and facts. Indeed, its chief import is the guidance it offers as to the origin of Imperial vicissitudes and the gravely important deductions to be made therefrom.

Coming at the commencement of a career destined to be a busy one in the county of Hertford, and not less useful than busy, the lecture in 1853 embodied characteristics so promising that the discerning might have safely foreshadowed a life capable of asserting for itself a distinctive position in public affairs. "A Sketch of the History of India" in every part has signs of being the progeny of a brain ready for work requiring vigorous originality. There are in it none of the appearances of a discourse prepared by a process of mechanically "stewing down" only what is obtainable from standard

works; for, throughout, Mr. Robert Dimsdale's personal views and observations, as the result of general industrious study and research, were put forth in essay style, garbing the lecture with the flesh of living force, in contrast to presenting a mere skeleton of the dry bones of facts.

The importance of giving now an ample consideration to the details of those early opinions on India is not more real than it is interesting. In 1853, when Mr. Robert Dimsdale was at work as author of "A Sketch of the History of India," the world stood before a great unknown upheaval: the sanguinary Mutiny of 1857, the details of which will for ever be read as a stain upon humanity. The land which from its earliest days had been periodically the theatre of wars, tyranny, and wretchedness, suddenly became as a jungle wherein all the vilest passions of hate and brute depravity were let loose. As we are now thirty years on the other side of that sad historical event and are in possession of well nigh every shameful incident, and every revolting particular, certainly much profit must ensue from a glance at the substance of the lecture on India, in which the subject of this article displayed eminent abilities as a writer.

His faith in the future of his country was marked in the very opening lines. Having recalled briefly the victories of Blenheim and Waterloo, and the names of Wellington and Marlborough, as instances that the nation is ready with the shield of protection even over the liberties of others, Mr. Dimsdale wrote: "And if, on some future occasion, similar events should afflict our European world, it will naturally be to England that the injured and oppressed will flee for succour, as the asylum where the rights of liberty will be last respected, and the principles of justice longest maintained." Those sentences, we may observe *en passant*, indicate in some

small measure the strength and purity of the writer's literary style. But our present purpose is to examine Mr. Dimsdale's personal views regarding India in the light now of the tragic events which in a few subsequent years were the cause of anxious hearts being turned towards India. It is refreshing, then, to mark the candour of his comments concerning our Indian conquests :—

"It is idle to deny that most of the acts committed by the English in that country, cannot be justified upon the strictest principle of religious truth and social morality. * * * How Clive cheated Omichund, and forged treaties ; how Warren Hastings extracted money by armed interventions ; how the Marquis of Wellesley annexed territory on the most trivial pretexts; and how, in a word, each professed peace in England, and practised war in India, is well known to the most careless student of Indian history. And, after this, it is useless to talk as if England mourned over each new victory, and lamented over each fresh accession of territory. But if it must be admitted that the mode in which our conquests have been obtained is little credit to us as a nation, it cannot be conceded to another class of objectors, that the results of our supremacy have been injurious to the people of India. The celebrated aphorism of Burke, that on our expulsion from that country we should leave no more traces of benefits conferred upon the people than the tiger or the boar, savoured at the time rather of rhetorical exaggeration, than of historic truth ; but now it has been abundantly negatived by the course of subsequent events. Under the Mahomedan Princes of the Mogul Empire, the people were ground down by every species of social suffering. Compelled by labour to raise great public works to gratify the vanity of their masters, their little property was not secured to them but liable to be torn from their grasp at any moment, by some of the numerous predatory tribes who swarmed uncontrolled and unchecked throughout India ; an enormous taxation and usurious rate of interest crippled their resources ; while as a natural consequence the greater numbers were reduced to a state of slavery. The direct reverse of this might serve for a description of India under English rule. The rate of

interest has been reduced from 36 to 5 per cent.; while the cultivator may till his lands without fear; and the taxation is at the same time lighter in amount, and more equitably levied. Indeed, except the right of governing themselves, there is hardly one social privilege from which they are at present debarred. Let us steer, then, between the two fallacies besetting us on the right hand and the left. The one, that the dominion of India has been acquired by means of which a sincere philanthropist would approve; the other that the results of our dominion have been unfavourable to the happiness of the Indian people or natives."

That constitutes very fairly the conclusions that Mr. Robert Dimsdale had arrived at in that one direction. We pursue the subject now to note how far he was led to entertain feelings of alarm concerning the future of India; whether, in brief, he foresaw the possibility of a future revolt. The Mutiny of 1857 was of course brought to a head by the incident of the greased cartridges, but the slavery of the people and the prejudices of caste were not sufficiently eradicated. In the course of his book the author wrote, "how little is it given to men, or at least the greater part of them, to foresee the future!" And, surely, even the cautious Robert Dimsdale with a mind prescient in many respects hardly imagined the likelihood of the disaster and trouble that belong to Indian history for the year 1857. As we read in "A Sketch of the History of India," that "in India, more than any country in the world, success rests for its single basis on opinion; and a slight check, or even an anticipated failure, which in our European world would produce no influence upon political relations, there agitates the mind of all the surrounding States and becomes the signal for revolt or the trump for revolution," we really cannot help thinking that if the same wise estimate of the character and peculiar conditions of native life had been

heeded in 1857, by those responsible, as Mr. Dimsdale in 1853 was evidently powerfully conscious of their significance, then the cunning and nefarious plot which gave Nana Sahib and others scope for so much diabolical wickedness would have been anticipated amply in time for a successful suppression.

That very same qualification at previous periods in India had been the salvation of peace and order. And of that Mr. Robert Dimsdale gave full recognition in his admirable lecture. Clive anticipated the intrigues of Meer Jaffier; Hastings anticipated the French when her emissaries were stirring up Hyder Ali to assail the Madras Settlement; and Lord Cornwallis, in contrast, when dealing with Tippoo, incurred a further irritating and expensive war, by not completing the immediate expulsion of Tippoo from his dominions. For faults of a very similar character, too, Lord Teignmouth is spoken of by Mr. Robert Dimsdale as a well-meaning, yet incapable Governor-General: "Conscientiously anxious to adhere to the pacific instructions he had received, he quietly passed over many insults offered to the English. Policy of this kind cannot be safely acted upon in a country where everything depends upon the slightest breath of opinion." If that fundamental view had been taken full advantage of in India in the years that immediately followed the delivery of the lecture at Hatfield we may, in the face of actual history, hold that the opinion is not an extravagant one, that the Mutiny, if indeed it had ever occurred, would not have raged in such carnal ferocity, nor would it have been traceable to so crude an error as that of permitting anarchy to be created from so preventable an incident as that of greased cartridges.

We will quote once again from the pages of the lecture, because the sentiments there expressed, penned as they were

four years before the events that crimson the records of India, nevertheless read more like the words of one who was already in sight of the blazing panorama of 1857 :—

"We have already learned some severe lessons by dear bought experience, of the danger of trifling with the religious prejudices of the natives, on a matter to us seemingly so unimportant as the length of their beards, and the regulation of their moustache, but which were identified with their religious prejudices. It was a slight interference with the dress of the Mahomedan Sepoys, that brought on the Mutiny of Vellore, and nearly alienated the confidence of that native army upon which the possession of India mainly depends ; while at an even later period of our history the trivial incident of the much misunderstood Somnauth proclamation, all but blew into a flame the too sensitive prejudices of the Mahomedan population. Perhaps the natives set even more value than we should, upon strict adherence to unlimited toleration in our dealings, from the marked contrast it bears to the policy of the Mahomedan conquerors who preceded us in the possession of India. * * * When at Vellore the Indian army was in mutiny, it was by the aid of Sepoy troops that we succeeded in crushing Sepoy rebellion ; yet the question of the Indian army is, at least, a delicate subject ; and an unintentional violation of their prejudices may, at any time, snap the tie which still binds them to our allegiance."

It would have been well could the curtain there be dropped before the scenes of succeeding disturbances in India. When the lines we have just reproduced were written what undeveloped horrors were to be unfolded ! Human nature indeed would have recoiled from contemplating them even had there been among those who were afterwards the victims of the insurrection a serious suspicion of the sufferings they were actually to endure :—

"Life is before ye—oh ! if ye could look
Into the secrets of that secret book,

Strong as ye are in youth, and hope, and faith
Ye would sink down and falter, 'Give us death!'
Could the dread Sphinx's lips but once disclose
And utter but a whisper of the woes
Which must o'ertake ye, in your life-long doom
Well might ye cry, 'Our cradle be the tomb!' "

In addition to Baron Dimsdale's accomplishments as one who judges closely of human nature, he is the master, as we have already intimated, of a forcible and terse literary style. There are many passages in a lecture which he subsequently delivered (at Hertford, 1864) on "Hertford and its Castle," that serve to illustrate very finely his attainments as a *littérateur*. Adverting to the topics discussed at a Church Synod in our county town in 673, the author proceeded :—

"It is interesting to trace in these early records of our Ecclesiastical Assemblies, the first germs and gradual rise of controversies which even in our own days are agitating the councils of the Christian Church. How best to provide for the representation of all shades of opinion in our Synods, and so furnish a convenient safety-valve for the escape of passions, which, pent up, would rend the Church asunder,—how best to promote the extension of the Episcopate in wise proportion to the increase of the population,—are the two great questions which alike in the seventh and in the nineteenth century have engaged the minds of the most earnest and thoughtful of their respective periods. Is it not strange that the same problems and difficulties which disturbed old Theodore of Tarsus should be the self same in character and form as those which we to-day are endeavouring to solve? Spite of the wide interval of years which separates the two events—spite of the yet wider difference in thought and feeling which characterises the two epochs—the Synod of Hertford discussed the same questions, grappled with the same difficulties which not a week ago, under the presidency of a modern Prelate, attracted the attention and occupied the thoughts of the last great gathering of earnest Churchmen in the metropolis of Western England. How true it is that history so frequently repeats itself; that in the records

of the past we can take something better than a mere antiquarian interest, and find in the experience of bygone ages, the light to guide or the beacon to warn us among the shoals of controversy which beset the times alike of a Theodore or a Langley."

The structure of each of these sentences has the merit of perspicuity and literary strength. Thus, genuine ability and painstaking care stamp the work of his head and hands alike as that of a man of wide learning and energetic talents. In 1856 he also lectured on the subject of the Crimean War at Buntingford and Dover.

In 1859, as Mr. Robert Dimsdale, he contested Hertford against the present Lord Mount Temple on his acceptance of office; but was defeated by a majority of 77. In June, 1866, he was returned unopposed for Hertford; in 1868, at the General Election, he contested Hertford against J. W. Gibbs, Esq., whom he defeated by 89 votes; in 1874, he retired from the representation of Hertford, when he was presented with a testimonial; in the same year he became Chairman of the Herts Chamber of Agriculture, as he still is; in 1878, he became Deputy-Chairman of Quarter Sessions for the Hertford Division; in 1885, he defeated H. G. Fordham, Esq., for the Northern Division of Herts; in 1886, he was returned unopposed.

We have referred at some length to the Baron's power of looking into facts as well as looking at them. As Europe now stands with ears pricked ready to catch the first bomb-sound of another great carnal strife, let us see what, in 1856, Mr. Robert Dimsdale had to say on the subject of the Crimean War, and we may, as it suits us individually, apply his words to the present occasion :—

"Never again should we underrate the power of Russia,

nor overrate the resources of England. The crisis found us unprepared for war, but could we console ourselves with the reflection that the peculiar duties and responsibilities of peace had been regarded and performed? Alas, no! The masses still uneducated—the love of gold—mere mammon worship, corrupting by its evil influence nearly every class of society, the prevalence of crime, the want of fellowship and communion between the different ranks of God's creatures, remained as sad testimonies to the fact that forty years of tranquillity had passed over us comparatively unimproved; and although we might not approve, we could not fail to understand the indignant exclamation of the poet, when reviewing the peculiar curses of over-civilisation :—

> 'Is it peace or war? Better *war*, war by land and by sea,—
> War with a thousand battles, and shaking a hundred thrones.'

"Three months ago we were all speculating on future campaigns, and beholding, as through a magnificent vista, the glories of naval and military triumphs. A flotilla of gunboats and a splendid marine inspired us with the hope of capturing St. Petersburgh, and dictating peace to the Autocrat by the flames of his burning capital. We were calculating on the re-conquest of Kars—on the speedy annihilation of Russian influence over the East—Nicholaieff was to share the fate of Sebastopol—and the humiliation of Alexander was not doubtingly proclaimed as the sole condition of returning peace! Behold, how to-day all is changed! We are welcoming messengers from the Parisian Conferences, and are looking forward with eager expectancy to restored tranquillity; and if there be a murmur of disappointment at the result of this war, it will, I feel sure, be hushed amid the joyful acclamations of an enthusiastic people; nor do I believe will our calmer judgments repine because Russia still maintains her place among the first-rate Powers. A war of extermination on our part would infallibly beget reciprocal violence on the side of our opponent; the imposition of hard terms would most certainly react upon ourselves, and, planting in the breast of Russia the rankling wound of envenomed animosity, pave the way for the speedy resumption of Continental hostilities."

As Mr. Robert Dimsdale, our subject was first introduced

to a constituency for election to Parliament in August, 1859, when he contested the Hertford seat in the Conservative interest, opposing the Right Hon. William Francis Cowper on his acceptance of office as Vice-President of the Board of Trade. The nominations took place one Thursday at the hustings, where a scene of even more than the usual electric excitement ensued. The Liberal candidate was proposed by Mr. B. Young and seconded by Mr. Crawley, the 24 years' "faithful services" of Mr. Cowper being well emphasised as a good and sufficient reason that his return ought to be certain. Anticipating Mr. Dimsdale's nomination, Mr. Crawley significantly alluded to him as "one who had been held over their heads as a rod for some time past." The name of the Conservative nominee was then duly submitted to the electors by Mr. T. J. Curtis and Mr. T. Smith. The difficulty of the situation which Mr. Dimsdale on his part had to meet may be understood from the following sentences, incidentally spoken by Mr. T. J. Curtis :—"Gentlemen, it rests with you to teach Mr. Cowper that he has no right to any vested interest in this borough; and though Mr. Cowper's influence is so great, the mere fact of his friends boasting of it, as they do, tends to show how that influence is used."

According to the London *Times* of that date, the election closed after a spirited contest, in which an extraordinary amount of party feeling was enlisted on both sides; the figures being: Cowper, 281; Dimsdale, 204. The "features" of the election are vividly described in the following extracts from *The Times* of March, 1859 :—

"Both on the polling and on the nomination day the place presented an appearance so picturesque, and all classes of the inhabitants ranged themselves on one side or the other with a feeling of partizanship so genuine and undisguised, as to carry the mind some 30 years back, before an utilitarian

spirit had sought by degrees to divest the election of Members of Parliament of almost all that was characteristic of the national manners. On the night preceding the poll a well-known pugilist, named Ben Caunt, and five other men connected with 'the ring,' one of whom was a coloured man with the appropriate sobriquet of the 'Black Diamond,' arrived in Hertford. Their advent soon became noised about the town, and the circumstance was deemed sufficiently alarming to attract the notice of the Mayor. To one of the police authorities, who asked an explanation of the visit, Caunt said he had received from a man who keeps a beerhouse in the town, an invitation for him and some of his 'pals,' as he called his companions, to come to Hertford. This person is said to have identified himself with the Conservatives during the contest, but it is due to Mr. Dimsdale's committee to state that they were in no way whatever concerned in the transaction, and that they were the first to denounce it. At the instance of the Mayor, Caunt was induced to leave the town on Friday morning, but his five comrades remained behind throughout the day."

Though defeated, the Conservative candidate at once expressed his intention to contest the seat on the earliest future occasion.

This promise was redeemed in 1866, the death of Sir Minto Farquhar, in June of that year, causing a vacancy in the representation of Hertford, and Mr. Dimsdale was elected without opposition. At the General Election in 1868, however, he met with an opponent in the person of J. W. Gibbs, Esq., whom he defeated by 89 votes. In 1874, having in the meantime succeeded to his father, and therefore now the Hon. Baron Dimsdale, he retired from the representation of the Borough of Hertford. On Saturday, 24th October, 1874, the occasion, which was regarded on all hands as meaning only a temporary withdrawal, was marked by a very gratifying indication of the public esteem entertained towards the Member; political friends and opponents having

joined readily in a testimonial of respect. And on the date mentioned the very pleasing ceremony was conducted before a large concourse of spectators by the Marquess of Salisbury, in the Shire Hall, Hertford.

A sum of two hundred and twenty guineas, which had been raised, was devoted to procuring a silver dessert service, of very elegant and graceful design, composed of a centre piece and four side pieces, the centre piece being an epergne 2ft. 5in. in height, standing upon a massive plateau of silver and plate glass, the edge representing rockwork interspersed with water, plants, and cascades. The base of the epergne is divided into three shields, the first containing the inscription; the second, the Baron's arms ; and the third, those of the Borough of Hertford; from the base rises the two stems of a vine, the leaves and fruit being exquisitely wrought in frosted silver; three branches spring from the stem, each bearing a cut glass dish for flowers or fruit; at the top, supported by a coronet of vine leaves and grapes, is another and larger dish. At the foot of the vine stand two harts, beautifully modelled in silver, their feet apparently in running water. The side dishes are similar in design to the epergne, the stands being composed of vine leaves and grapes, and the dishes of cut glass of elegant design and workmanship. The following is the inscription on the epergne :—

Presented to
THE HON. ROBERT BARON DIMSDALE,
OF
Essendon Place, Herts,
Ten years Member of Parliament for the Borough of Hertford,
As a Testimonial of the respect and esteem of his
former Constituents and others.
October, 1874.

The Marquess of Salisbury, in making the presentation,

made use of the following phrases, which coming from so high an authority are still to be much valued :—

"It has seldom been that any Member of Parliament has performed the duties assigned to him, or filled the position which has been given to him with more unremitting zeal, with more unflagging and single devotion to the interests of his constituents, with more unsparing disregard of his own strength and of his own convenience, and I may say with more complete approval on the part of those who placed that onerous duty in his hands, than you have done."

Following the Reform Bills of 1885 came the General Election in the autumn of the same year, and then the Hon. Baron Dimsdale was once again induced to become one of the candidates now for the county divisions, under the new electoral arrangements. There were some little bickerings as to which constituency was to have the benefit of his candidature, for he was "wanted," in a very honourable sense, in more than one direction. The Baron having put away personal choice and also his own feelings in the matter, those in whose hands the settlement rested allotted to him the Hitchin Division, and there he went, sustaining a long and arduous fight, which culminated in the defeat of his opponent, H. G. Fordham, Esq., by a very substantial majority. In the following year (1886), when the overthrow of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill caused another appeal to the country, the Baron was, for the second time in the course of his public life, returned to Westminster unopposed.

Undoubted esteem exists towards the Hon. Baron Dimsdale all over the County of Hertford; but the more fervid public affection centres at Hertford, where as an exception, we suppose, to the rule "a prophet is received in his own country;" or, in other words, a man's busy and valuable services are held in just appreciation by his own community and by his own generation.

Viscount Grimston, M.P.

Viscount Grimston, M.P.

THE General Election of 1885, when the political vista was gloriously uncertain, gave Viscount Grimston, the eldest son of the Lord Lieutenant, his first official introduction to the St. Albans constituency. His opponent was Mr. John Coles, acknowledged on all sides as a very worthy man—but a Liberal; so the electoral bride showed her choice for the titled suitor, leaving the other gentleman to be seen

> "Folding his tent, like the Arabs,
> And silently stealing away,"

perhaps with a prospective view of other constituencies—to fresh fields and pastures new.

The consequence was that at the time in the following year when the Home Rule Bill led to another appeal to the "tribunal of public opinion," Mr. J. Coles, as Liberal candidate for St. Albans, was *non est;* though then his party was in the light-hearted condition ascribed to Juvenal's *vacuus viator*, in the sense of having nothing to lose, and only a seat possibly to gain. A little skirmish, however, took place, a new opponent to Lord Grimston being announced in the

person of Mr. Sassoon, of London. Yet, after a few hours' informal candidature, the gentleman never actually coming before the electors, he resigned, and the Conservative member was re-elected unopposed.

It will therefore be seen that, politically, whatever distinction he attains to, Lord Grimston's position in this respect lies chiefly before him. Of course, he is very prominent in county work, among the Agricultural Societies and various local benevolent institutions, such as the Herts Convalescent Home, and for all of these he is an active worker. To Hertfordshire people he is naturally well-known as the Earl of Verulam's first son, and to this fact may be largely attributed his present political standing.

The Viscount was born in 1852; educated at Harrow; from 1868-70 was Lieutenant Herts Militia, and 1870-78 Lieutenant 1st Life Guards; since 1879 has been Captain Herts Yeomanry Cavalry; is a J.P. for the county. He married, on April 30th, 1878, Margaret Frances, eldest daughter of Sir Frederic Ulrick and Lady Jane Hermoine Seymour Graham, and widow of Æneas Mackintosh, Esq. The Viscount's residence is at Sopwell Park, St. Albans.

Mr. J. Blundell Maple.

Mr. J. Blundell Maple.

HOUGH his political position is not yet in definite wedlock to the St. Albans constituency, Mr. J. Blundell Maple is an opulent county gentleman, who has already become universally respected in our midst, and is regarded here, as everywhere, as a potent exponent of those principles of which the Constitutional party are proud. As a speaker who possesses the quiet but effective tactical skill of allaying stormy opposition, he made his presence particularly welcome as chairman of several meetings during the fierce gladiatorial struggle in the St. Albans Division in the autumn of 1885. Perhaps it is not too much to say that the success he has achieved in the political world may be traced largely to one keystone—he respects both the doctrines and feelings of his opponents, and seeks victory over them only by calm and weighty controversy.

Another distinctive forte clearly is the happy, and therefore inoffensive, knack he has of rescuing a subject under debate from confused and irrelevant wandering. This must at any time be conspicuous to those who may see him deal

with disputants who put one in mind of the cuttle-fish, that, when unable to extricate himself, blackens all the water about him, till he becomes invisible. Such opponents, who do not know how to methodise their thoughts, have always a barren superfluity of words, "the fruit being lost amidst the leaves," often carry a public debate to the point of "confusion being worse confounded." Then it is that Mr. Maple can exercise that rare and precious quality of gently diverting the train of controversy into the proper channel.

The characteristic that prompts respectful wonder is that a gentleman of ample fortune should exhibit a readiness to enter into the arena of active politics. To one in the position of the subject of our sketch there can be nothing to gain by political ascendancy. Every mundane luxury is already possessed for enjoyment, so that nothing short of being inwardly impelled by a consciousness of a duty due to fellow citizens can invest the stormy sea of politics with any attractive charm. True, there is the excitement, but that, if it were the only inducement, could be obtained in more congenial atmosphere than in the murky and questionable healthy senate chamber at Westminster. To men like some of the Radical labour representatives, who, it is understood, get one thousand pounds annually and all election expenses paid, the incentive for Parliamentary work is not difficult to understand.

But to those in Mr. Maple's walk of life, it requires an effort of contempt of idleness to face the whirlwind of opposition and the torrents of abuse to which all candid politicians are openly exposed. He is a Conservative with liberal views, and gives great attention to the wants of the people. "I shall endeavour," he recently declared, "to find more work for English labour, considering it above all things important

that labour and capital should work together, and believe that only by their unity can the commerce and welfare of England be maintained." Still, he is not merely a benefactor in theory, and his liberality is not confined to the expression of suave sentimental language. As instances have arisen under his own eye of some of his employés at St. Pancras needing assistance, it has been given with a generous heart; and the best testimony to any public man's genuineness is in his everyday acts :—

> "That best portion of a good man's life,
> His little nameless, unremembered acts
> Of kindness and of love."

Greatness is goodness displayed, and emphatically it has been by the display of innumerable "little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love" that he has endeared himself to any community with which he has been associated.

Mr. J. Blundell Maple is no novice to politics, though for very many years he declined the honour of contesting a constituency. In 1871, when only 26 years of age, he received an urgent invitation to consent to nomination for the old Borough of Marylebone, which then included the present Southern Division of St. Pancras. If there had been any political vain-glory to serve, there was then presented an admirable opportunity for its self-gratification. The probability of his election was temptingly great. Mr. Harvey Lewis, who was the other sitting Member besides Sir Thomas Chambers, had incurred so much unpopularity, that his dethronement seemed imminent. Mr. Maple's personal disposition, however, did not make him ambitious then of senatorial distinction, and he declined the honour of soliciting the suffrages of the Marylebone electors.

Fifteen years have passed, and whilst Mr. Maple has been

busy shaping the destinies of the colossal business which has made his name a household word, his attention has also been turned towards the subject of the progress of our Empire, weighing well the influences that are at work in moulding the future character and condition of the nation. The vital public changes that are occurring are just of that description that lead to serious examination on the part of those gentlemen who have made their names eminent in the world of commerce. What is the avowed aspiration of every statesman and politician? To revive and sustain trade, which, as Cowper avers, is "the golden girdle of the globe." When the legitimate business of the country is affected, the prosperity of the nation is rightly spoken of as in peril. When Dr. Johnson wrote that "Trade's proud empire hastes to decay," he appealed to the instincts of the people which are most closely associated with the sentiments of patriotism.

When we speak of a country happy we suggest a land where industry is being profitably pursued, and therefore who more than those men who as architects of their own fortunes have succeeded in building up gigantic commercial undertakings are best fitted for work in the nation's Senate? It is accordingly fortunate that Mr. J. Blundell Maple has yielded at last to the pressure that has been brought to bear upon him to offer himself for service to his countrymen in Parliament.

Before looking more definitely at his political experiences let us review the incidents of his earlier days. Born on 1st March, 1845, at 145, Tottenham Court-road, London, W., the son of Mr. John Maple and of Emily Blundell, his wife, of Horley, Surrey (a descendant of the well-known and ancient family of Blundells in Lancashire), the subject of our sketch is therefore now in his forty-third year. His father,

whose birthplace was Storrington, near Horsham, Sussex, has a residence at Hampstead, besides an estate at Earlswood, Horley, in Surrey. In his childhood the early education of the son was entrusted to well-qualified instructors, and on entering Crawford College, Maidenhead, Berkshire, at the age of ten, his natural mathematical talents were already plainly observable. Passing the College of Preceptors before attaining the age of twelve he made rapid headway, and when about fourteen years-and-a-half old he went to the famous school connected with King's College, Somerset House. On the 19th September, 1860, he quitted the classic grounds at King's College, and at once became associated with the business his father had established in Tottenham Court-road.

Those who have resided in the neighbourhood of Euston during the last twenty-five years know well enough how the name of Mr. Maple has become a commercial power in that part of London. To-day the business is at least twenty times as great as it was in 1860, when Mr. Blundell Maple first began to exercise a personal and complete control of the counting-house department, together with the organisations connected therewith, and all this in addition to making himself intimately acquainted with the details of the whole establishment. The result of these efforts and of his consummate commercial skill has been that now there is in existence a colossal business trading all over the world, employing at head-quarters as many as 2,500 people, who are in receipt of regular wages. Messrs. Maple supply goods to every civilised country in the world, including most of the Royal Courts, and they have houses for banking and buying purposes at Paris, Smyrna, and Calcutta. This firm has had charge of many furnishing undertakings of immense

magnitude, including the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, and the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, the Holborn Restaurant, and the Hotel Metropole, the total cost of the last-named alone being £120,000.

It is not surprising that a gentleman who has distinguished himself so much in the world of commerce should be eagerly sought for in the arena of politics, just where the toughest fights have to be sustained. For he has unmistakably great experience and a valuable insight into public affairs. Than wide and marked success in affairs commercial, there cannot possibly be a better credential for service in concerns national and Imperial. The subjects that now-a-days engross the attention of Parliament are such as require sagacious and enterprising handling, and for men of these qualities the country has frequently had to have resort to commercial circles—as instance, the present Leader of the House of Commons. Thus commerce often has acted as the best nursery for the sound and firm administrative power which makes the best politicians and statesmen. Therefore Mr. Blundell Maple, who has carved out his own business fortune with courage and prudence, possesses what are, in these days of popular suffrages, just the very abilities for eminent and useful work in a senatorial capacity.

Mr. Maple has done much to make Conservatism popular. He has worked hard, and does not owe his present position of political influence to any outside favours. He has appreciated the words of Dr. Blair, that without steady and constant endeavour it is impossible to excel in anything. And that is probably why his views are so healthy and welcome. He recognises it as a fundamental duty of all good Conservatives to remove those damaging assertions made by opponents that Conservatives do not wish the poorer classes

to participate in the advantages that wealth and labour and capital gave to them. He believes it is intended that England shall carry a civilising influence throughout the world, and exert a spirit of Christian, brotherly love among all the nations. But to do that we must be a united people. He has found that a great many persons who thought themselves Whigs are really strong Conservatives, if they could only be brought to understand that they are Constitutionalists. He has had discussions with men who thought themselves Radicals, and has been delighted to find that in their eyes he was as great a Radical as themselves. He believes these men are Conservatives at heart, although they knew it not. Men go forth thinking they are Whigs, and end by being brought into the fold of Conservatism.

In the year 1885, when the General Election took place under the new Reform Bills, Mr. J. Blundell Maple received the pressing solicitations of the prominent Conservatives of the new South St. Pancras constituency to become their candidate. When, after some consideration, he assented, it was at once seen that his entrance upon the war-path would mean certainly a hard contest for Sir Julian Goldsmid, the Liberal nominee. Since Mr. Maple has thus prominently identified himself with political life, his experience has been rich in incidents of wide and general importance. The questions of the Policeman's Vote, and the Shop Hours' Bill, may be mentioned as only instances in point. He is not one easily to be drawn into every new-fangled idea, as he has a keen critical power with which he judges closely and severely of any novel suggestion before he lends it either the benefit of his counsel or the influence of his purse. Yet once satisfied of the wisdom of any course no one is more indefatigable than he in promoting its complete

success. This is a decided tendency of character, and when stimulated with the strong enthusiasm that invests all party politics, the trait becomes a force that knows no abortion, and is not spent till the desired object is attained. With Mr. Maple this unswerving application to any task he imposes upon himself is in close alliance with a very cautious discretion that governs every enterprise, and saves him from stumbling into any of the political pitfalls that are at any time the danger of active public endeavours.

His singular abilities in inspiring well-directed and wisely-organised political efforts were amply acknowledged in some very gratifying sentiments conveyed by the Marquess of Salisbury and Lord Randolph Churchill, in May, 1885, when Mr. Maple was publicly appealed to come forward as the Conservative candidate at South St. Pancras. At a great demonstration influentially attended, the following were among the letters read:—

"20, Arlington Street, S.W.,
"*May* 18*th*, 1885.

"Dear Sir,—I am much obliged to you for your letter, informing me that it is proposed to ask Mr. Blundell Maple to become the Conservative candidate for South St. Pancras. I have the honour of Mr. Maple's acquaintance, and can very sincerely congratulate the Conservative Association of South St. Pancras on their choice. Mr. Maple is a very zealous and active Conservative, and his abilities, together with the singular energy with which he applies them, will enable him to do very valuable service to the Conservative cause in Parliament.

"Believe me, yours very truly,
"SALISBURY.

"F. Seager Hunt, Esq."

"2, Connaught Place, W.,
"*May* 19*th*, 1885.

"Dear Mr. Seager Hunt,—I have to thank you for the

invitation you sent me to attend a meeting of the Conservative Association for the Southern Division of St. Pancras on Thursday next. I wish greatly it was in my power to attend, but I regret very much that I have an important engagement on that evening which I cannot avoid. May I be permitted to congratulate your Association very warmly on their good fortune in securing Mr. Blundell Maple as their candidate at the coming election. I can state with particular knowledge, that Mr. Blundell Maple's services to the Conservative Party in the Metropolis have been immense, and such as to entitle him to the most cordial support of the electors of St. Pancras, and I really do not know anybody more thoroughly qualified to fill the high position of a Metropolitan Member of Parliament. His presence in the next House of Commons will be a considerable guarantee for that increase of energy and activity amongst our Parliamentary Party, which so many of us greatly desire.

"Believe me to be, yours faithfully,

"RANDOLPH S. CHURCHILL."

Mr. Blundell Maple has generous political instincts, and though he is a very valuable and much-valued member of the Conservative party, his public work rises distinctly above that of a mere partisan order. And certainly nowhere is this more conspicuous than in and around the City of St. Albans. Here he has made his name a household word by generous deeds scattered among many classes. The fine old estate at Childwickbury of over 850 acres, which he recently purchased, is not kept as a sacred secluded spot, where only the landed proprietor and his immediate friends are to be refreshed by the recuperative influence of residence at this interesting seat. Its owner heightens his own enjoyment of such a resort by making it periodically the centre for gathering together and gladdening the hearts of crowds of London children, to whom a day in the wholesome air of the country and a few hours spent in merry gambols and frolicking in the park and fields, comes as a rich luxury.

On all these occasions Mr. Maple plays the rôle of the philanthropist thoroughly. Every little *gamin* is feasted with fat things and released from all restraint, their amusement being fully catered for in the way of steam roundabouts and swings; so that for the youngsters a day's excursion to Childwickbury means a perfect heyday of delight. Whatever lavish expenditure, careful forethought, liberal bounty in the way of refreshments, and personal interest will do to make heavy little hearts lose their weight of infantine care, and become light and gay, is done with hearty hospitality by Mr. Maple.

Nor are the St. Albans children less fortunate. The bright and happy day in August, 1886, for instance, when some hundreds of scholars were entertained by the owner of Childwickbury, will be remembered probably throughout life. As a host at these times our subject knows how to attain to emphatic success. He allows nothing to go off slowly. He is not satisfied simply with the loosening of his purse strings. When he has brought together a throng of little ones ready for riotous fun and impatient for lively sport, he takes care there is no curbing of any healthy appetite. Riding himself in and about every group, the children are not long in discovering that they have one amongst them who enters fully into their enjoyments, and whose silver soon sharpens their emulation in the various races and *al fresco* competitions which he personally organises.

All this indicates a trait that is noble in a rich man. It is a characteristic which leavens the danger and even the evils generally attributed to wealth—the quality whose beneficent operation shows that a Crœsus may have a soul above his money bags. We thus catch sight of the other side of the shield, and see opulence not only in the forms of Hydras,

Gorgons and Chimeras dire—the picture too often pourtrayed —but in the delineations of a creature whose heart has the true throb of human brotherhood, and the use of whose money is controlled by broad and generous sympathies, seizing and searching for opportunities of augmenting mortal happiness, and giving piquancy to the hackneyed platitude, "One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin." This, too, is the secret that enables a man, by his active performance of acts of good-fellowship, to keep a vigorous mind clear of all the mental horrors of *ennui* and satiety that luxury breeds when employed only for purely selfish gratifications.

Character under these circumstances cannot fail to attract wise attention and arouse popular admiration. Yet there is not a *soupçon* of stiff formality about Mr. Maple's benevolence, and many of his very best kindnesses have been hidden from the light of public gaze ; but as they accidentally become known—for a man's reputation will follow him as surely as his shadow—they form additional testimony to his large-heartedness. Generous instincts prompt innumerable deeds of philanthropy—whether it be in planning a monster fête for city lads and lasses; providing privately and handsomely for the widows of old *employés* in London or at Childwickbury ; offering his means towards country hospital schemes, or raising funds for London charitable institutions.

Mr. Blundell Maple has taken a lively interest in the welfare of University Hospital. As Steward of the Institution, he exerted himself most energetically to improve the finances. He had the honour and pleasure of announcing at a meeting, held at the Hospital under the presidency of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that by means of a circular letter which he had distributed amongst his personal

friends, he had raised the magnificent sum of £900 for the benefit of that Hospital. He also originated the idea of starting what is now called the Maple or People's Fund, which alone brings in nearly £700 per annum. This splendid augmentation to the exchequer is brought about in this way. Mr. Maple gave a sum of money to be used as a nucleus. A collector then called upon the landlords of certain much-frequented publichouses, and begged permission to place a collecting box in a prominent position, at the same time asking what sum would probably be produced. When this was named, that amount was taken from the nucleus already supplied by Mr. Maple, the landlord was immediately placed upon the list of subscribers to the Hospital, and a number of tickets (proportionate to the contributions fixed upon) placed at his disposal. When the amount specified had been raised, the sum withdrawn from Mr. Maple's original deposit was replaced, and again used to produce similar results elsewhere.

In the St. Albans electoral constituency, his country abode, it is not surprising that much interest attaches to his political views. These are very well summarised in the following statements made during the election of 1885 :—

"I belong to the Established Church, and while I would gladly welcome the extension of the forms which would unite and embrace Nonconformists within the Church, and consequently give them the fullest Religious Equality, I still maintain, that for the benefit of all classes, the National Church should not be Disestablished nor Disendowed.

"The present Second Chamber, as represented by our hereditary House of Lords, I consider the best and most satisfactory corrective senate ever devised.

"Considering that both parties of the State create fresh representatives, I prefer the present hereditary system to the proposal that the Chamber should be one of life peers. However, I recognise that reforms are necessary, but these should come from within. I further consider that in the

House of Lords there should be members representatives from the Colonies, the same as Ireland and Scotland now enjoy.

"The duty of a government should be to give Peace, Work and Happiness to all, and this with honour I look upon as certain under a Conservative Ministry.

"I believe that one of the first matters which must absorb the attention of the new Parliament will be to give greater power and weight to County Government Boards, thereby relieving the House of Commons of the detail work. This extension of power should be equally applicable to Ireland as to the other parts of Great Britain.

"A consolidated federation with our colonies is also now ripe for discussion, and under a powerful Conservative Government would, I have every confidence, receive their most serious consideration.

"While wishing for economy in public expenditure, I recognise the importance of maintaining our Army and Navy in the highest state of efficiency, so as at all times to be ready (under emergency) to protect our valuable possessions at home and abroad.

"Work for the working classes, and attention to their health, requirements and education, I look upon as the duty of every Government, while I equally acknowledge the importance of defending the rights of capital, considering it above all things important that labour and capital should work together, and acknowledge that only by their unity can the commerce and welfare of England be maintained and increased."

On the subject of Home Rule Mr. Maple holds that the two Bills the ex-Premier introduced are inseparable :—

"Mr. Gladstone's Irish Government Bill proposes to repeal some important provisions of the Act of Union, and would set up a rival Parliament in Dublin with an Executive Administration, which it would be impossible to disconnect from the influence of American Fenians and foreign intriguers. There would also be constant irritation and agitation by the Separatist party until they had got all power in their hands. No effective guarantees could possibly be taken for the protection of the minority, for the security of property, or for

the rights of conscience. · · · It must be clear that there are other alternatives besides Separation or Coercion, and the one which I would support is that which would give the people of Ireland local control of their local affairs on the same scale as the people of England and Scotland, and on principles applicable to these countries as well as to Ireland.

"The introduction of Imperial Federation with India and our Colonies is a measure which must, in my opinion, follow, of necessity, the creation of County Government Boards.

"Colonial representatives should have seats in both Houses of Parliament, those in the House of Lords being sent as representative peers, in the same way as Ireland or Scotland. Imperial Federation, based on these ties, together with those of kindred, interest, and commerce, would constitute Greater Britain, an Empire more wealthy and powerful than any the world has yet seen.

"In respect to Free Education, I am decidedly of opinion, that, since education has been made compulsory, the very poor ought to receive some assistance; but I cannot accept the idea that grants of large sums of public money should be made out of the rates to pay for the education of children whose parents are perfectly competent to bear the burden. Religious education is one of our most cherished privileges, which should be equally the right of the Nonconformists and the Roman Catholics; and I consider that there should be every opportunity given for the people's children to be educated in the belief of Christianity which they profess, instead of giving them the lifeless, boiled-down, mechanical, unreal religious teaching now prevalent in the Board Schools."

As a politician Mr. Maple knows what time of day it is. This was well exemplified by the clever little *coup* by which he secured Sir Julian Goldsmid's vote for the Unionist party. The "Radical of Radicals," Sir Julian's self-inflicted sobriquet, certainly recorded his vote against the Disruption Bill, but when on the defeat of Mr. Gladstone's Bills he had to pass through the crucible of another General Election he showed signs of wavering by promising to "consider any fresh plans for Ireland." But Mr. Maple was not the man to

be caught napping, so that the equipment for a contest was at once prepared, with the result that Sir Julian was induced to see his way clear "to remain reliable as Unionist." Thus, Mr. Maple has no insignificant skill as a political strategist, and it is fortunate that St. Albans has a gentleman of such undoubted qualifications as a Conservative candidate resident in the neighbourhood, in view of possible future requirements.

There is, however, another aspect of the life we are now considering, which brings us to the subject of healthy social amusement.

Mr. Maple is no less wise, is much happier, and makes many others much happier also, because he has a zest for vigorous exercise. In contrast to the mournful philosophers, who, as Balzac says, would take spring from nature and youth from human life, he enters with gusto into the sports of others as well as his own.

Whether in London or in the country he has always plenty of spare energy with which to promote the recreation of those about him. In connection with the London firm he has encouraged in many ways the cricket club in existence among the young men of the establishment, who have held the challenge cup contested for each year by the large London business houses, besides the aquatic cup for rowing. Mr. Maple is also a valuable friend to the Early Closing Association.

At Childwickbury everyone knows he is remarkable for his wonted hospitality. Coursing and hunting take place there frequently, all in addition to the various cricket and other competitions that find a ready patron in Mr. Maple.

Thus, the wise old saying *Festina lente*, that we should knead our days with a little leisure, is not forgotten.

This is the sort of disposition in a man which goes to make

the mournful and depressing clouds evaporate that so often darken the days of many. We get outside the harsher experiences of existence, and feel that life is wholsome and after all worth living.

Mr. Maple is also known on the turf, his horses being entered in the name of Mr. Childwick, and their fortunes are watched with intense interest in sporting circles in Hertfordshire. Royal Hampton, which has been a prominent favourite for the Derby, and Saraband, which made his debût at Kempton Park in the Spring of 1885, and won in the easiest of trots, are of course the chief of Mr. Maple's racers. The subject of our sketch is also a steward and liberal supporter of the Harpenden Race Meeting.

We have spoken of Mr. Maple's sagacity, which in matters political has made its influence felt on many questions. Policemen, as everyone knows, are practically disqualified from exercising the franchise. The first to champion their cause with a view to the removal of this anomaly was Mr. Blundell Maple. Persistently following the subject up, he has at length the gratification of seeing that Lord Salisbury officially recognises the grievance, promising that it shall receive Government attention. On topics, too, requiring thoughtful mental examination he is most valuable to the Conservative party.

He is the author of a scheme for the Beneficial Organisation of Conservative Clubs. His proposal is "to utilise the existing wide organisation of local Conservative Clubs for the obtaining of certain definite benefits to the members, by co-operation, voluntarily undertaken, they being entitled to advice and assistance, as well as conditional governing, from the Ruling Council of the Union, which can thus bestow on them the overwhelming advantage of its central operation and

responsibility, as recipient of their means and the trustee or the distributor of their resources." This denotes worthy energy on the part of one who, in conjunction with the Marquis of Abergavenny, has been the main mover in starting and carrying on the rapidly rising Constitutional Club, for both efforts indicate his active loyalty to the party to which he has identified himself so honourably.

Mr. Maple has explained that the first step towards the new movement to which we have referred should be the voluntary affiliation of Local Conservative Clubs, under conditions, to the National Union of Conservative Associations. Such act of union should involve the interchange of social club advantages. The Club thus affiliated should, by the act, become qualified, at its option, under conditions and regulations approved or prescribed by the Central Committee appointed for such purpose by the National Union, to organise sectional operations for the benefit of its members by combinations for thrift—that is to say (amongst others):

(a) For beneficial assurance by endowment, temporary assurance, and in case of death to secure all the advantages of life assurance.

(b) The accumulation of savings, to secure all the advantages of a savings' bank and of limited investment.

(c) The gaining of money advances for the acquisition of land or house property. To secure all the advantages of the building society systems, and to supply a point of touch with possible coming legislation.

To grasp the magnitude of this, means to open up a bold and brave scheme of political unity. It is palpably the emanation of a mind skilled and ready for intricate and responsible administrative work. Like Marcus Cato Uticensis, politicians are all busily engaged penetrating the future from a watch tower, and the Conservatives, on their part, are

improving their outlook by means of greater unity in their forces. This is not better evidenced than by the project we are now considering. Of course, genuine executive power would be called into exercise in its founding ; but that is no reason why a work capable of enduring and far-reaching benefits should be missed. That part of the proposal which naturally invites most critical attention is the plan for the combination of thrift-work with the other benefits of Club co-operation. Once satisfied, as Mr. Maple evidently is, after careful investigation, that this novel character of Club effort would be devoid of any speculative nature, it must be gratefully conceded that we are immediately introduced (probably for the first time) to a field ripe for prodigious social and political work.

The very idea of coupling Club organisation with providence is a sagacious forethought. Then, again, the manner in which the originator speaks of these new operations being actuarily regulated is very welcome, because it reveals clearly that the desire is to conduct the work on business lines. Thus these Clubs, merely from the social aspect, could become potent factors in the development of thrift habits, and of accelerating the effacement of the old-standing reproach that the English are notoriously improvident in the management of their own affairs. Other institutions, now well-established, have done much towards influencing the masses to acquire a disposition to save, but it cannot be said that the whole of the English race have yet attained to a cultivated and regularly-maintained practice of systematically making provision for the future. Mr. Maple's proposal, therefore, would have a wholesome influence in this direction, of eradicating what remains in our midst of the evil of improvidence ; whilst, undeniably, the other advantages of the

union would come "as a boon and a blessing" to all sections of Clubland.

Every observant and reflective mind will consider these proposals in the light of the general development of Conservative political organisation. The one great and availing distinction of the present Constitutional party is that, as is admitted on all sides, it is striving to keep apace with the progressive spirit of the age. And when we read these details, in Mr. Maple's clear and convincing language, it reminds us once more of his strong personality for wise and profound preparation for general future comfort. Such a matter, too, becomes a serious reflection in the hour when the disposition is widening for obtaining in public service men of undoubted personal qualifications. In the future, in all contests, the keenness of the fight will depend not so much on party feeling as on the *personnel* and character of those who seek our suffrages.

Are not the views of all moderate men being blended under one banner, leaving only those with violent political programmes to console themselves in a separate camp? It can be no surprise, accordingly, that constituencies are beginning to resolutely shun the candidates who think to "cozen fortune without the stamp of merit." If the Conservative Party is to advance with leaps and bounds, it must value those, like Mr. J. Blundell Maple, who possess the mental calibre and strong administrative fitness for the more responsible duties of the public service.

Political prosperity must always depend on political thoughtfulness, and it is really refreshing to listen to men who prefer to think out grave public questions for themselves in preference to having their politics "served up" for them. Here are some of Mr. Maple's own views :—

"There is one aim which we should keep constantly in view, and that is the consolidation of the Empire. Once attain that, and you have a free interchange of the fruits of all our work. The great question is—Should we favour our colonies by putting a duty on all foreign products and manufactures, so that they might give us in exchange a differential treaty, making the scale of tariffs 10 per cent. in our favour as compared with all other nations?

"Yes, there is some little danger in talking on this subject to those only poorly informed. But I think my cry of 'Work for the workers' is a good one in everybody's estimation. Talk about 'Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform'—why, here is a far better motto, 'Peace, Work and Happiness for all.' There you get the whole duty of Government—first to procure honourable peace for the nation, then to see that all the workers have work. Happiness follows in natural course; it is only want of work that makes men wretched.

"It is in the Imperial idea that we must look for our future. Our colonies have now reached that stage when they need armies and navies to defend them; and an Imperial fiscal policy would be in no way burdensome to them; for it would simply be levied according to the number of the white population, and thus the old country would still bear the brunt of it.

"How would this benefit the working man? Why, in every way. The English working man depends almost solely on home manufacture; it is of no moment to him that wine and silks are taxed, for he wants none of either. No, it is the rich, and the rich only, that get a pull out of our so-called free trade, for they get their luxuries cheap, whereas, if a protective tariff were in force those very

luxuries might be provided at home, and industries that have been killed thus revived.

"The working people don't know that it is they who contribute beyond all reason to local taxation, while a duty on luxuries would shift this burden on to the foreigner, or, at worst, on to the richer classes. To explain my meaning: You know that local taxation amounts to about 25 per cent. on house rent. Now, suppose a man with £1 a week has to pay 4s. a week for his rooms, as he has to do in large urban districts; the landlord pays the local taxes, and has apportioned the rent accordingly; which practically means that the tenant is giving 1s. a week of the 4s. to local taxes—that is, £2 12s. a year; a larger sum, in fact, than that given in Imperial taxation, which amounts to but 38s. Thus local taxation mulcts a working man of 5 per cent. of his wages; while, on the other hand, a man with £1000 a year takes a house of £50 rent, and pays about £15 a year in taxation, which amounts to but 1½ per cent. of his income. Can you not see from this that local taxation is a frightful burden on the working classes?

"We must get rid of this incubus; we must shift it on to the shoulders that can bear it. Look at America; she collects her taxes by means of protection, and lets her land go free of taxes, while our land has to bear taxes equal to 10 per cent. on the output. America raises £40,000,000 in Customs, while we raise only £19,000,000. And then our Colonies are so much more worth dealing with. Why, do you know that Australia last year bought from us at the rate of £8 16s. 6d. per head of her population, while the United States bought only at the rate of 8s. 6d. per head? We possess one-fifth of the world and one-third of the world's capital; is that not scope enough to enable us to subsist on our resources, to

enjoy the real blessings of free trade as it should be, and consolidate thus our Empire on an immovable basis?

"Instead of thinking of these things, you see some foolish people roaring out against the expense of Royalty. Do you know that Royalty costs a working-man in this country only the price of a pint of beer per annum? That is a fact, which can be readily shown by statistics. The exact cost of the Monarchy to the masses of the British people is very small. The outside annual revenue of Her Majesty and all the Royal Family, including the private property of the Crown, amounts to £500,000 a year. Mr. Chamberlain estimates the taxation of the working classes at 3 per cent. of their annual income. Taking the average weekly wage of the labouring bread-winner at 25s. a week, *i.e.*, about £65 a year, his total share of taxation would amount to about £2 a year. The Budget for 1885 was just one hundred millions. Taking the cost of the Monarchy at half a million, this is 10s. per cent., or 1-180th part of the country's expenditure. As the head of every working-class family contributes on an average £2 per year to the national revenues, his share in the cost of the Monarchy is just 1-180th part of £2, that is about 2½d. a year. For this he gets order, good and stable government, free from the constant revolutions, oppressions, and injurious changes of all kinds that are so disastrous to the working classes of the Continent. And surely there is no working-man so stupid as to grudge one pint of beer for a year's good government—or even for the mere sentiment which attaches to the Crown. We none of us know the full value of a royal family—for even in these days they can quietly exercise an immense power over difficulties of foreign politics. Nations are, by the marriages of Royalty, brought into family connection, and

if this is not all powerful, it is certainly not without very strong influence.

"I tell you, the question of the day is one which concerns the working classes almost entirely. They *must* have work, and it is for us to set at nought the exploded fallacies of free imports, and to see that the British Empire is consolidated into a homogeneous whole, by shutting out the foreigner. In this lies the future hope of the British working-man."

St. Albans is to have a new Hospital, to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. The question of a site at first threatened to be "a lion in the way;" but Mr. J. Blundell Maple came forward and offered to purchase a certain plot of land in the Hatfield-road for a sum of £500.

The proffered present, it is true, was not accepted, because some felt that objections might be raised to its situation. This, however, is a controversial point, and as Mr. Maple felt no reasonable exception could be taken to the spot, he announced his intention of devoting the money instead to some other public object in the city.

The offer was nevertheless magnificent, and testified to Mr. Maple's generous interest in works of benevolence. Such pressing necessities as this one for a new St. Albans Hospital afford many pleasant and gratifying features, not the least felicitous of which is the harmony it gives rise to between all classes, whose one final aim is common. In these matters men put aside all other feelings and prejudices, and unite in the common object to nobly benefit the suffering, and alleviate human sorrow.

For the workers themselves, too, there could be no better exercise in the development of the finest virtues in mankind. And in this light Mr. Maple's princely offer is evidence of a

noble heart. To take, if possible, from mortal sorrow its sting—what does it mean? The world is full of trouble, and yet how little of it, comparatively, is capable of being minimised! It is therefore doubly incumbent on all to do that little which is possible to reduce the sum of earthly grief.

And this hospital relief is all the more an urgent want to-day, when we are living in the electric bustle and express speed which the march of civilisation has brought. It is a trite saying that as human progress advances, the perils of life increase proportionately. Broken limbs and broken skulls are no rarity, but in this grave matter familiarity must not be allowed to breed neglect nor a want of sympathy.

It is not merely the physical suffering that is the daily inheritance of great numbers, but the consequent woe that has to be endured in the homes of the injured. As Charles Reade has finely said in one of his charming cameo chapters, that wonderful dramatic prologue, the first chapter of Job, is truly but a condensation of the sorrows that fall like hail upon many a mortal house. Job's black day, like the day of the poetic prophets—the true *sacri vates* of the ancient world—is the type of a season, a bitter human season. It is, indeed, terrible how quickly a human landscape, by a sudden casualty, say, to the head of a struggling family, can cloud and darken.

And the promptings of philanthropic mercy which led to Mr. Maple's handsome promise to the St. Albans Hospital are those that point to the best of all help, because entailing undoubted self-abnegation and self-sacrifice.

These are the qualities that rear buildings which shall always command auspicious attention, and, above all, shall merit the lasting gratitude of sufferers in the neighbourhood who may unfortunately become in need of hospital treat-

ment. That is at least the impatient desire of those who give great sums for the maintenance of these worthy institutions; for since the time when Pandora visited all generations with mortal disaster, by letting loose all human ills, most potent earthly comfort has been placed in the power of the strong and rich to alleviate the sufferings of the weak and poor. The leverage for work so thoroughly good is in a kindly heart; and warmer instincts are to be noticed nowhere more distinctly than in the gentleman to whom we have sought to pay some of the tribute of respect and public gratitude that is due to him in many places, but particularly in this electoral constituency, of which St. Albans is the centre.

Major-General Bigge.

HERE we have a life that has been an eventful one throughout. Major-General Bigge, of Lye House, Bricket Wood, as a soldier, has earned high distinction, and as a politician he is conspicuous for the strength of his mental calibre. He belongs to the progressive wing of modern Conservatives. Thoughtful and exceedingly well-informed, his views always carry weight, and this, coupled with a naturally suave and good-hearted temper, make him one of the prominent men of value to the local Conservative Party. To listen to Major-General Bigge is to listen to a gentleman of cultured oratory who does not pretend to occupy public time and attention without giving the subject careful mental preparation.

Major-General Bigge is not of Hertfordshire birth, but comes of a well-known Northumbrian family. The estate of Little Benton was possessed by his grandfather and great grandfather, and the former was a staunch friend and Whig supporter of Lord Grey, sometime Prime Minister. Than the Army of course there could not be any better training

General Bigge.

school for thoroughness and attention to details, and this is probably how it is that these qualities now seem to be almost inherent in Major-General Bigge. No one can have heard his public deliverances without being struck with the neatness of his sentences as they flow in cadence from a voice, strong and commanding, admirably suited for public oratory. In the press world it is a maxim that with one-half of the speeches reported there must be "judicious dressing and trimming," or if speakers saw their own words literally reproduced they would be enraged as well as astonished.

But not so with Major-General Bigge. His utterances are composed of clearly-arranged and elegant language, and it is a real pleasure to sit under the smooth-running eloquence of which he is a master. As we have said, for his ability to steer clear of slipshod work—or, to be more accurate, his evident inability to be slipshod—he no doubt owes to his military experience. At the age of sixteen he entered the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (the 23rd), and served in it throughout the siege of Sebastopol, including the terrible winter of 1854. During active service at that time he was present at numerous bombardments and assaults. At that period he was wounded by cannon shot in the trenches, and also slightly by grape in the last assault. He volunteered and led the Royal Welsh, which assisted in saving the great English magazine when the French field artillery magazines blew up alongside, in November, 1855 ; and it is particularly noteworthy that the windmill in which the English magazine was stored, hundreds of tons of ammunition being there, was set on fire and its doors blown in. Such is the character of the incidents that go to make up the biography of one whose career is well worthy of a permanent record.

Major-General Bigge could reveal not a few tales of the

deplorable Indian Mutiny—an event which gives many a shameful page to history, and in connection with which the noblest sustaining valour of the British troops shone out in the face of the blackest outrages and crime. Having served in China early in 1857, the General was next destined to be on duty throughout the Mutiny in India, being then attached to the Northumberland Fusiliers. From November, 1857, to March, 1858, he was busily engaged, at one time in the action of Sherapoor, now in the defence of Alumbagh, then the relief of Lucknow, the occupation of Alumbagh, and many other engagements.

On one of these occasions his company captured with the bayonet the first piece of artillery taken from the enemy that day. Major-General Bigge also served at Calpee with Sir H. Rose, and afterwards in the southern and northern Oude Campaigns under Lord Clyde, driving the remainder of the rebels into the jungles of Nepaul. Thus he is a man of distinction in the army. He has been the recipient of a medal and clasp for services at Sebastopol, holds a Turkish medal, besides being awarded the Order of Medjidee, another medal and two clasps for Indian engagements, also the grant of one year's service for the relief of Lucknow.

The attitude he assumes towards the Irish Question is not simply based upon theory and reading. He has had a personal acquaintance with the Irish troubles. In 1865-66, when a major, he was selected by Lord Strathnairn (formerly Sir Hugh Rose) to command at Castlebar, West of Ireland, at the commencement of the Fenian outbreak. He then found drilling going on all round, under Irish Americans, and made the pleasant discovery of a conspiracy to surprise the barracks and shoot down himself and officers! He was pained to find that two of his own soldiers were implicated,

one of whom, being alarmed, gave the warning. The Habeas Corpus Act being suspended, fifteen of the ringleaders were arrested the same night, as well as the principal inhabitants of the town, and these were sent under guard to Dublin. Quiet was restored after this, and the Irish American drill sergeants left that part of the country.

Major-General Bigge was selected by Lord Napier of Magdala to command at Nynce Yal, in the East Indies, and afterwards as Assistant Adjutant-General to the 4th Division Camp of Enercisi, Delhi. He was also appointed to command the 2nd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers in 1877 ; was selected by H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief in 1879, and served on the Committee for the Re-organisation of the Army, presided over by Lord Airey ; was appointed to command the Agra Brigade in the East Indies in 1880, and afterwards to command the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers in 1881. He retired to reserve in 1882, with rank of Major-General. This is a hurried survey of his busy military career, rich in incident of danger and devotion to duty, and prolific in the fund of information gleaned and of observation enjoyed. As we have already intimated, he has not passed through a long and brilliant service unscathed. And only recently he found an operation necessary, owing to an old injury to the right eye, an injury which, due to continuous service, had become a source of anxiety.

As to politics, it would perhaps be better to say that Major-General Bigge is a patriot rather than a party man. True, he is nominally a Conservative, but it will not be a liberty to suggest that Conservatism would never hold him back from any action for the benefit of his fellows. Party attachment is growing less potent as a political factor, and this applies specially to the subject of this sketch. To his

mind Irish discontent is to be traced mainly to the operation of free, or rather unfair, trade, which has gradually smothered every industry in that unfortunate country. Unscrupulous agitators found little opportunity for their nefarious designs when Ireland was prosperous, but Ireland starving has become a hot-bed of revolution.

This, the General holds, is due to the main industry, agriculture, having been ruined, and now the agrarian mind is easily influenced. So it is we see that they are led to believe that all right and justice will in time be flung aside and the landowners dispossessed of their property. Of course Ireland has always been in a state of unfriendly relation to England, but what Major-General Bigge takes care to emphasise is that her present sad position is due to unfair trade. He holds the very feasible view that we cannot expect a ruined population to turn a deaf ear to Home Rule leaders, even though their promises be of the wildest description. But he is not incisive and negative in his criticism without having also some constructive suggestions. He looks for relief in the following manner:—Bring in at once a sliding scale of protective duties, sufficient to give an impetus to the dying Irish industries, and for that matter English also. This, he believes, would in time revive production and give that employment which can alone allay discontent.

Because Parliament has declared in favour of the integrity of the Empire, Major-General Bigge becomes in favour of the framing of a stringently-worded oath to maintain the Union as it at present exists, and would have every Member of Parliament subscribe to this oath before he be allowed to take his seat, or refuse to admit those who would not accept such a binding obligation.

It will at once be urged, "Oh, but this will disfranchise Ireland." The General rejoins, "So be it." He fortifies this by the contention that it will come to this at the last if we really intend to maintain the Union, and the sooner the matter is settled the better. Next, it will of course be objected that this will lead to coercion. Still, however, he retains his opinion, on the ground that there be no other alternative if Irishmen will persist in setting the law at defiance. The considerations that weigh with Major-General Bigge are these:—Are three millions of discontented Irish to lay down the law, or rather dispute the laws that are made by the great mass of the population of these islands, including about two millions of their own countrymen? Irishmen must be made to obey the law, but *pari passu*—at a similar pace—restore with a just hand that prosperity which will enable them to live.

It cannot anyhow be said that this is not a manly and weighty answer to the question often put by enthusiastic Home Rulers, who say, "But if you won't give Home Rule, where's your remedy for Ireland's ills?" Major-General Bigge's is a concise and, we think, a wise reply to this, if it could be the basis of a successful Irish policy. On matters of home politics, our subject is a friend to every object of sound and well considered progress. He is glad to see the late extension of the franchise, provided we can educate the people to receive it, but he fears that "the game of the Radicals" is to enfranchise the ignorant and the illiterate. The hope of the Conservatives must be in improving the condition of not only those who have received the franchise, but those who are likely to receive it, since the aims and deeds of the Radicals are, to many minds, those of darkness, and will not bear the searching test of the light of intelligence. Major-General

Bigge also has some pronounced views on Fair and Free Trade, as will have been noticed from the recent *verbatim* report in *The Herts Standard* of his Chamber of Agriculture lecture.

To this biographical sketch it will be of interest to add that in 1866, Major-General Bigge married Ellen, daughter of the late Rev. John and Lady Louisa Lees, and grand-daughter of the eleventh Earl of Huntingdon. He has three sons, the eldest having passed very high into, and is now a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, and the second son is a gentleman cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

In conclusion, we feel under an obligation to reiterate that a life, which from the information we have gleaned from time to time and observations we have made, has been found so full of graphic pictures, is deserving of a lasting record. Major-General Bigge is generally esteemed in this neighbourhood, where he has become, whether as a county justice of the peace or as a practical agriculturist, so well-known for a wide and varied knowledge of life. Besides giving a brief *résumé* of his Army career, none of the incidents of which will be fresh to those in the Army, we have also epitomised his views on current politics, as stated on various public occasions, and it has always occurred to us that the inbred valour of a good soldier has made our subject firm indeed as regards what should be our Irish policy.

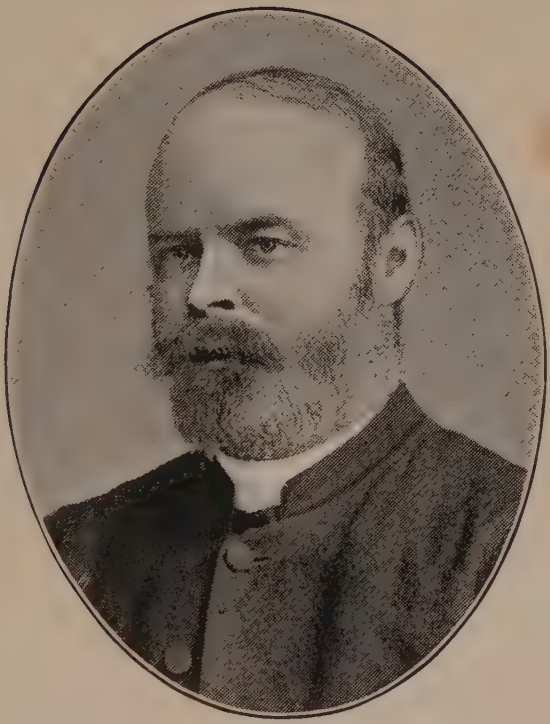
Of this there can be no mistake, Major-General Bigge is Unionist from heartfelt conviction. And his speeches seem to breathe the call to duty to those who rank themselves on his side, sounding the note for a future precautionary policy, so that should ever the Union be again menaced every patriot

shall spring to his post nerved to action by the sight and tumult of the coming fray, even as Achilles, sleeping in his tent, saw the gleam of a sword blade, and Barbarossa, slumbering on the mountain side, was aroused to duty by the bugle and the battle cry.

The Rev. Philip Deedes, M.A.

NO one who knows or who has critically watched the conduct and public utterances of the Rev. Philip Deedes, until recently Vicar of Redbourn, and now for the second time curate at the St. Albans Abbey, can reasonably regret that he is also a politician. Partisans who are extreme on either side, as advanced Radicals on the one hand or as firm Tories on the other, may regret the colour of his politics; but all who have a just width of sympathies will regard as more satisfactory than otherwise that our subject has not hitherto shied at politics. His life is fair evidence that there is no need for a parson to do so.

The opinion is obtaining still more than ever that he is a wise minister of the Gospel of Peace who does not reserve his attention exclusively to the spiritual side of life, taking that term in its narrower acceptation. Sorrow is best removed often in our times, as in the case of the Sorrows of Werter, by first alleviating the human distress that is near us, and then we may propagate the exemplary truths of the Christian faith. Spiritual admonition, however, with no



The Rev. Philip Deedes, M.A.

temporal blessing is not to be expected to produce a prolific harvest, where there are famishing souls in famishing bodies.

The clergyman who is truly concerned in the spiritual welfare of his flock will take care also to be concerned liberally and thoughtfully in their temporal welfare. Are there in Hertfordshire no sections of the struggling toilers, whose spirits chafe with passing anguish, of whom Goethe might have written with equal truth, "All their powers are exercised for mere sustenance, in order to prolong a wretched and tedious existence?" The clergyman who has any of the better and fiercer emotions of sympathy within him will not be content to breathe simply some good religious platitudes. He will be deeply stirred by feelings akin to Kingsley's, though he may not by any means care to adopt all of Kingsley's methods; yet, sincere convictions and conscientious influence on political topics will, to him, be equally a matter of affectionate duty as attention to the claims of the more abstract tenets of faith.

As a clergyman, the Rev. Philip Deedes' experience has been varied; as a politician, consistent. He has been curate of Bengeo, near Hertford; rector of Nether Broughton, Leicestershire; curate (twice) of St. Albans Abbey; vicar of Redbourn, Herts; so that his knowledge of life cannot be said to be limited. Hertfordshire people, left to judge for themselves, will pronounce him to be a gentleman certainly of broad views, very tolerant and moderate, as well as unquestionably useful.

He is not the man to allow his politics to become offensive—he is rather one who would err to the other extreme in the studied desire that his political opinions should be inoffensive. All the same for that, he has settled views as a moderate Liberal—he is, if we mistake not, a Liberal Unionist

—and respectfully exercises the prerogative of stating, maintaining, and cherishing his views. Local Liberals, of course, regard him as a valuable member of their party. Not that he is a frequent speaker, for though he does not believe in hiding political light under a bushel, he nevertheless seldom cares to take a foremost place in local Liberal oratory.

This notwithstanding, his party have good reasons for appreciating the political tendency of the former vicar of Redbourn. A Liberal clergyman must mean a certain fillip to local Liberalism, even though private influence may be wilfully and designedly refrained from. The very fact of his Liberalism, even if it were always passive and unexerted, must carry some weight, and form a matter of congratulation to his political friends.

It is not profitable to attempt an estimate of the influence and power of the Rev. Philip Deedes' life merely from the political aspect. Apart from and independent of politics, he is warmly respected by all. He was born in 1846, at West Camel Rectory, Somerset, his father being the Rev. Charles Deedes, rector of West Camel (1835 to 1847) and prebendary of Wells Cathedral, and afterwards rector of Bengeo from 1848 to 1875. His mother was Lætitia Ann, daughter of the Hon. Philip Pleydell Bouverie, the banker. Having been educated at private schools, Winchester College from 1860 to 1865, under Dr. Moberly, the late Bishop of Salisbury being head-master, our subject entered Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1865, and remained till 1869, when he took B.A. (Third-class Final Classical Schools) and M.A. in 1873.

He was ordained deacon in 1869, priest in 1871 by the Bishop of Rochester, now, of course, Bishop of St. Albans. He commenced duty at Bengeo in 1869, labouring there till 1875, when, on the presentation of P. Pleydell Bouverie,

Esq., he became rector of Nether Broughton, and remained there till 1881. That was the year of his first acceptance of the curacy of St. Albans Abbey, and in 1884 he became, on the presentation of the Earl of Verulam, vicar of Redbourn. This living he resigned at the close of the year 1886, when he again became curate at the St. Albans Abbey.

Thus, it will be seen, that he has had a varied life. He seems almost to have alternated from the business bustle and noisy surroundings of residence in the more stirring and populous parts to the quiet and peaceful existence incident to rural retirement. The latter certainly seems to have occupied the greater portion of his life. For a time, anyhow, until one's elements of vigour and activity become restive, it is possible to enjoy country seclusion.

We may, doubtless, take it, as Goethe somewhere says, there is indeed peculiar pleasure in being able to share, if only for amusement, the peasant's experience of beholding on the table the vegetables one's own hand has raised, and whilst enjoying the comfortable meal, to recollect pleasantly the fine morning on which the vegetable was planted, the lovely evening on which it was watered, and the pleasure of successive days in seeing it grow and flourish. What does the jaded toiler of the great capital know of these refreshing emotions?

Yet the Rev. Philip Deedes has discovered, and made good use of the discovery, that there is an ample field of usefulness, not unmixed with anxiety, in holding the spiritual charge of rural folk. During his residence in Redbourn, the vicar and his family endeared themselves to all classes of the parishioners. We may here mention that he married, in 1878, Josephine, second daughter of Joseph Parker, Esq., of Brettenham Park, Suffolk, niece of the late

William Parker, Esq., of Ware Park, Herts. There are six children.

As will have already been gathered, Mr. Deedes' politics are not of a revolutionary type. The wild dreams of the democrat's Elysium do not find a lodging place in his mind. His is rather the belief in steady social progress. It is only natural that he should take a warm interest in educational work, and upon the much-vexed controversy of Voluntary *v.* the School Board system, he holds out for the maintenance of both. He also feels somewhat strongly in favour of technical education, *e.g.*, the teaching of local trades. Probably one of the most engrossing public questions of the future will be the thorny ones regarding compulsory thrift, and Mr. Deedes has arrived at the opinion that a really wise and well-considered measure of compulsory thrift would be good; but maintains that it would have to work side by side with the existing agencies, such as the Foresters' and Oddfellows'. When it was first announced that he was about to reside again in St. Albans, the contemplation was regarded as one of general public interest and congratulation. The action of the Rev. Philip Deedes in giving up a lucrative living for work almost honorary, in connection with the Abbey, is another proof of a generous spirit of self-abnegation; and St. Albans' gain is a severe loss to Redbourn.

MR. H. J. TOULMIN.

(From an Old Photograph.)

Mr. Henry J. Toulmin.

A GOOD specimen of the robust type of Conservatism is presented in the person of Mr. Henry J. Toulmin, of The Pré, near St. Albans. To him stagnation in politics is as abominable as stagnation in character. He is even sometimes regarded almost as a Tory-Democrat, and is far too Radical in many things for some of the more fossilised stamp of Tories—the old Catos of the party.

Still he is a good Constitutionalist, and certainly has no sympathy with the new fangled doctrine, "Built up on our bran new politickle thesis, That a Gov'ment's fust work is to tumble to pieces," but he is decidedly more likely to assert, as did Mr. Hosea Biglow:—

> "Why land and order, honour, civil right,
> Ef they *ain't* worth it, what *is* worth a fight?
> Onsettle that, an' all the world goes whizing,
> A screw's got lose in everything there is."

But a life governed by respect for law and order is very different to a life swayed by a stern exclusive spirit that knows no consideration for the public at large. The extreme

Liberals revel in their title of "the friends of the democracy," and it is because the Conservatives have sometimes shied at the democracy that many now rejoice at the foresight of the more progressive wing of the party not shunning the appellation of "Tory-Democrats." True, the bare name of democracy has been soiled and sullied by being frequently and shamefully dragged in the gutter by the more rabid Radicals; but it remains that the democracy must ascend, will ascend, and it is to the advantage of all to aid such onward elevation of the masses.

Mr. Toulmin's name is intimately associated with the work of the restoration of the St. Albans Abbey, having been a member of the Committee who were responsible for the funds prior to Lord Grimthorpe's time. Throughout the vicissitudes the Committee witnessed, Mr. Toulmin displayed great energy.

For instance, at the first meeting of the Abbey Gateway Committee, held in April, 1868, Lord Verulam in the chair, the Rev. Sir John Cæsar Hawkins (then rector) was appointed treasurer, and Mr. Toulmin became hon. secretary to raise money to purchase the ancient Gateway of the Abbey, to exchange it for the Lady Chapel, which was afterwards restored to the Abbey. Then from 1872 to 1882 he was hon. sec. with the then Rev. (now the Ven. the Archdeacon) Walter J. Lawrance, for the reparation of the Abbey. About £40,000 was raised, and the central tower was repaired; the piers of the nave straightened, and a new roof added to the nave. The sum just named included £2,000 for the purchase of the old Gateway.

Here it will be interesting to give the expenses in repairing the Abbey by the various Committees, and by private individuals, from 1870 to 1880. Approximately the figures

are as follows, which, however, are exclusive of what Lord Grimthorpe spends on his private account:—Tower, £4,400; choir and choir aisles, £5,992; transepts and slype, £1,049; bells, £230; shrines, £185; nave, £18,577; Lady Chapel and Antechapel, £7,054; path deviation, exclusive of land purchase, £570; total, £38,057.

Mr. Toulmin used his influence too in saving the grand old tower of the Abbey, with the Roman tiles as old as the Cæsars, from being covered with modern plaster. Sir Gilbert Scott had already done a third of this intended work, when our subject, by personal exertion, obtained the support of the Earl of Verulam, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Webb, Canon Davys, and Mr. Chapple, and succeeded in prevailing upon Sir Gilbert to counter-order plastering the tower, so that it still stands as one of the most interesting features of the Abbey Church.

Mr. Toulmin is the eldest son of the late Henry Heyman Toulmin, Esq., of Childwickbury. He was educated at Rugby, and in 1856 entered the Army as cornet in the 13th Light Dragoons; was promoted to lieutenancy (without purchase) on the retirement of Sir Evelyn Wood, who volunteered for service in India, and joined the 17th Lancers.

After leaving the Army he was captain for 13 years of the Hatfield Troop of Herts Yeomanry. On the death of his father he took up residence at Childwickbury, where for many years, until he sold the estate to Mr. J. Blundell Maple, he lived with his wife and family, having married Emma Louisa, eldest daughter of the late Philip Wroughton, Esq., of Woolley Park, Berks, and has issue, three sons and nine daughters. Having worked on County and City Benches of Magistrates for several years, he obtained a certificate of legal knowledge, and was called to the Bar in 1886.

The same year he was elected Chairman of the St. Albans Board of Guardians.

In politics, as far as possible, Mr. Toulmin prefers the concrete, and turns his back on anything that is lacking common sense. He cares little for the "poetic sentimentality" of politics, and was once rather inclined to be cynical concerning the Primrose League—may it be mentioned, with some nervousness, that for a long time he felt content to leave the League, as he once quietly said in his own richly humorous way, to be shared by "the young parsons and the poetic young ladies"? But Mr. Toulmin is not so bad as to dislike the useful being beautiful, and when once the Primrose League officials persuaded him of the effective and prevailing usefulness of the "poetic young ladies" in strengthening the phalanx of the Constitutional Party, he forgave their poetic instincts and encouraged the organisation of the Primrose League. Doubtless his early playful spirit of carping ridicule in this direction may be traced to the living satire in him that constitutes one of the happy and most conspicuous elements of his character. Mr. Toulmin is no fiddle-faced philosopher. He believes in hearty mirth, and his cultured humour is generally a welcome diversion to the passing ebullition of any testy temper at a public meeting.

It is to his inward affection for the welfare of the people, that he owes his firm resistance to the Protectionists' "new crusade." He is a pronounced free-trader. But he laments the ocular suffering that seems, as many believe only on the surface, to indicate the unfortunate and the unwelcome effects of free trade. He sees around him unemployed artizans, who are eking out precarious existence in sight of the heavy imports of ready manufactured portions and adjuncts of houses, and he hears the British workman's appeal :—

"Our friends so good and kind,
Would fain our need supply;
But Honest Labour we must find,
For we must work or die!"

Like many other emotional good men, Mr. Toulmin in the face of this plaintive, distressing cry cannot countenance any tentative national measure that would perhaps hazard the "cheap loaf" of the already long-suffering artizan.

He is a friend to any movement for sound healthy improvement, whether spiritual or temporal. As a Churchman who ardently loves and serves the Established Church, he is not capable of bigotry, and though churchwarden in connection with the classic edifice of St. Michael's, he has accepted invitations to preside at Dissenting meetings, called ostensibly to raise funds for Dissenting work.

But his philanthropy is of that nicely balanced order that does not consist wholly of either money giving or active assistance, but is prudently mixed with both. And no institution is more indebted to him than the St. Albans Hospital and Dispensary, for which as hon. treasurer he has worked assiduously and self-sacrificingly for very many years. For the enlargment fund he could not have worked harder, though unostentatiously, if he had been attending to personal commercial interests; yet, as everyone knows, there could not be a gentleman more scrupulous of honour or of the probity of character. The result has been, that largely due to his energies and influence as the head of one of the leading county families, that fund has been seen to steadily swell first into hundreds and now into thousands of pounds.

Then, again, as a county or city justice, he can exercise clear insight into character so as to divest a case of the professional glamour of the pleader and arrive at a just but

merciful verdict, and these qualities will stand him in good stead in pursuing the legal profession, having, as we have said, recently qualified as counsel. His experience, long and valuable as a justice, will render his services of special value. Altogether, Mr. Toulmin spends a busy life, and is affable in converse, generous in temper, immovable once having maturely resolved upon a course; devoting many active abilities for the good of the county and the place of his abode.

Mr. A. H. Debenham.
(From a Photograph many years old.)

Mr. A. H. Debenham.

LONG and honourable has been the connection, social and political, of the family of Debenham with the City of St. Albans. It was in 1850 that the father of the gentleman who forms the subject of this sketch took up his residence in St. Albans, and since then his name has been closely identified with many worthy local objects.

Perhaps more of an athlete than a politician, formerly by actual personal practice, and now chiefly by his sympathies, Mr. A. H. Debenham has performed undoubted good service to the neighbourhood. One of the most prominent feelings of gratitude which we associate with his name is in relation to the St. Albans Amateur Athletic Sports, now one of the recognised meetings of the year.

The popularity of that annual event is largely due to him, among a number of other city gentlemen, and he himself was one of the originators of the movement. His love for wholesome recreation has made itself felt in various other directions also. He is an ardent patron of cricket, quite a veteran supporter of the City Cricket Club, has dis-

tinguished himself as a player, and is still familiar with the knack of handling the willow.

One result of this very sensible affection for healthy exercise and sport is seen in his very fine physique.

It is the well-worn tale, *mens sana*—the same yearning which Goethe embodies in "Faust," and it is a natural one. The life-long dream of poet and philosopher of old was to prolong existence; modern sanitary science exhorts us to keep a sound mind in a sound body—yet in practical life how few professional and commercial men take the trouble to conserve the strength and vigour vouchsafed to them!

Health is the very best capital that can be possessed, and still how great is the number of those, shrewd in other affairs, who grudge an hour spent away from the counting-house! And then none are more surprised than these in observing others enjoying robust power of brain and body, whilst they are drifting, from over wear and tear, on to mental dry rot.

Mr. A. H. Debenham, however, is much wiser, and doubtless from the business aspect never has regretted the spare time and means which he has devoted to the pursuits of recreation. When only sixteen years of age, then at the City of London School, he won the school 100 yards' race, the quarter of a mile, also for throwing the cricket ball, besides running second in the half-mile to H. P. Gurney, who was afterwards the Cambridge "crack" at that distance, and now a well-known "crammer."

His membership of the St. Albans Cricket Club extends to the protracted period of 20 years, and for several seasons he served as its secretary. For a considerable time he was a regular player with the eleven, being, according to the reputation given him now by some of his old colleagues, a hard

hitting batsman, a fairly good man in the field, and useful thrower from a distance.

He is the eldest son of the late Mr. George Debenham, was born at Lee, Kent, in the year 1848, but has lived in St. Albans since June, 1850, on his father coming to reside there. He was at the St. Albans Grammar School for nearly five years, under the Rev. Henry Hall, and subsequently went to the City of London School, where he stayed nearly three years. After matriculating at the London University, he was articled to his father, and admitted a solicitor in Trinity Term, 1871. He became a partner with his father in the year 1876, in the firm of Thompson and Debenhams, which has been in existence now for nearly a century ; and on the death of Mr. Debenham, sen., in 1883, he took the position of head of the firm. He was the first Clerk of the St. Albans School Board, but resigned in 1883.

To think of him for a moment in a different sphere, he is not the man to sacrifice dignity on the altar of wild political fanaticism. He has, however, a distinct political creed, and he values it. As a moderate Liberal, he brings his light from under the bushel as occasion requires, when there is real service to be performed ; but he certainly has not a craze for politics. Temperate in his views, he is nevertheless loyal to the principles he is enamoured of, ready to work for "the cause" when there is any definite goal to struggle for, as he was one of Mr. John Coles' (the Liberal candidate for the St. Albans Division) warmest supporters in the election of 1885 ; yet always a gentleman, as much to opponents as to political friends—

> "For 'tis the mind that makes the body rich :
> And as the sun breaks through the darkest clouds,
> So honour peereth in the meanest habit."

Mr. Isaac Newton Edwards.

A MAN of mark! What does it mean? Everyone has his ideal of life, and few are those who do not yearn with impatience to make their mark in the world. And surely there is scope for all.

Distinction is to be attained to in every sphere, and the methods are as various and changing as the elements of the weather. Patronage often fills the cup of success, and then it is just possible to quibble as to one's right of being classed among men of mark. But when the very pinnacle of prosperity is reached by shrewd industry and by dint of original merit, life becomes stamped with a reputation whose worth none can take exception to.

Whatever our walk of life the weakest must go to the wall, and the strongest will survive, which very well explains succinctly how it is Mr. Isaac Newton Edwards enjoys the best rewards of existence, and who, for the nonce, seems to carry with him the magic wand of success—everything he handles is free from failure.

Who can wish for greater satisfaction? Let us, for the

Mr. Isaac Newton Edwards.

moment, recall a few concrete facts. He has had the conduct of twenty Parliamentary Elections, and shows a clean record! Not a single defeat. Elsewhere we will consider each of these events more closely. Turn to another subject. He is an agriculturist and especially a dairy farmer in the very hour when English agriculturists send up their dirgeful cry that this home industry is tottering on the brink of its grave. He, however, makes the pursuit profitable. Again, another side of his life is seen in the busy public engagements he fulfils. He is Town Clerk of St. Albans, Registrar of the County Court, Clerk to the County and City Magistrates, Treasurer of the County of Hertford, all in addition to the private, social, and honorary positions he occupies.

Therefore, the first thought is naturally one of amazement, how any man can not only discharge duties so multifarious but with such thoroughness and marked success.

It has been very well said it does not occur to the idle that merit and good fortune are closely united :—

> "There is no such thing as chance;
> And what to us seems merest accident,
> Springs from the deepest source of destiny."

And what that "deepest source of destiny" is in things temporal we all know. It is industry and ability.

Without those qualities Mr. Edwards could, of course, by good fortune have become a successful professional gentleman in the sense of receiving some valuable public offices; but for him to have beaten every Parliamentary candidate in a long list of twenty contests, for him to have gone to strange constituencies and converted Liberal strongholds into Conservative seats, and for him as a dairy farmer to have taken two years in succession the British Dairy Farmers' Association Challenge Cup, beating all England—all these testify to

a character that depends on and works with more reliable and solid qualifications than mere luck and "fortune," in the way that so many people, like Micawber, look for fortune to wait upon them.

Mr. Edwards' achievements as a Parliamentary election agent denote skilled powers for organisation ; his dairy distinctions tell of a careful business-like mind. In the former capacity his tact and effective ability in dealing with men have helped him to score heavily ; in the latter it has been his attention to details and a vigilant control over many matters—instance the milk records—which many others have treated too lightly.

Mr. Isaac Newton Edwards was born on the 10th September, 1838, at St. Albans, being the fourth son of Mr. Henry Edwards, late of Beech Hyde, St. Albans, a farmer. He was educated at Christ Hospital and St. Albans Grammar School; received the presentation for Christ Hospital from the late Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, formerly Member for the Borough of St. Albans, and entered in September, 1848, leaving in September, 1853, being then fifteen years of age. The next two years were spent at the St. Albans Grammar School.

At that time he was in delicate health, and consequently remained at home with his father at Great Hanstead Farm, Bricket Wood, near St. Albans, till 17th March, 1857. Early in life he entered the offices of Mr. T. W. Blagg, was ultimately articled, and in 1863 was admitted a solicitor. It was on 1st January, 1865, that he became a partner with Mr. Blagg, and on the death of that gentleman in 1874 was entitled to the whole business of the firm. He married Helen, the second daughter of George Ashwell, Esq., of St. Albans, in 1865, and has four children.

Some time before this, however, he had had the charge of a Parliamentary election, and was only nineteen years of age when, in March, 1857, on a vacancy taking place in the County of Hertford, he became the agent for Mr. Abel Smith in the St. Albans district, in place of Mr. Blagg, who was then employed for Lord Henry Thynne, in South Wilts. From 1857 to 1868, he assisted Mr. Blagg as agent for registration and in election matters for the St. Albans district.

In June, 1868, at the earnest request of the late Hon. Robert Grimston (the truest friend and adviser that Mr. Edwards ever had, and friendship with whom continued up to the time of his lamented death), he undertook to try to return Mr. W. H. Smith (now the Leader of the House of Commons) for Westminster, at the General Election in November of that year. The political economist, John Stuart Mill, was then the sitting Member, but suffered defeat, the declaration of the poll being:—Smith, W. H., 7,648; Grosvenor, Hon. R. W., 6,584; Mill, J. Stuart, 6,284. This of course was a great victory, no Conservative having sat for Westminster for over 20 years. The result so annoyed the Liberals, that they filed a petition against the return of Mr. Smith. This came on for hearing before the late Baron Martin, and the trial lasted for eight days, his lordship in the end deciding that Mr. Smith's election was a good one. Mr. Edwards conducted the defence of this petition, which was one of the first tried before the judges of England. But the severe strain imposed by the double responsibility did its work, and Mr. Edwards' health broke down. The verdict of "the people," followed by the endorsement of the judge's judgment, however, naturally operated as very fine cordials, so that with a few months' rest strength and vigour were renewed, and in commemoration of this great victory

Mr. Smith presented Mr. Edwards with a valuable silver service.

In 1874, on the occurrence of another General Election, Mr. Edwards again led the forces at Westminster on behalf of Mr. W. H. Smith and Sir Charles Russell, Bart., this time wrenching the seat from the remaining Liberal Member, so that for the first time within the memory of many, two Conservatives represented the constituency. The numbers were: Smith, W. H., 9,371; Russell, Sir C., Bart., 8,681; Buxton, Sir T. F., Bart., 3,749; Codrington, Sir W. T., 3,435.

In 1880, another General Election took place, and Mr. Edwards for the third time was entrusted with the election fortunes of Mr. W. H. Smith, who again had for his colleague Sir Charles Russell. The contest was a very exciting one, the Liberal nominees being Mr. John Morley and Sir A. Hobhouse. The following was the state of the poll:— Smith, W. H., 9,093; Russell, Sir C., Bart., 8,930; Morley, John, 6,564; Hobhouse, Sir A., 6,443.

In 1882 Sir C. Russell died, and Mr. Edwards then acted for Lord Algernon Percy, the son of the Duke of Northumberland, who was returned unopposed. In 1885, when the first General Election took place under the new Reform Bills, and the Act stipulating still greater stringency in the management of elections, Mr. Edwards was agent for the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, who was nominated for the Strand Borough, the opponent being Mr. E. G. Johnston, who polled only 2,486 votes to the Conservative candidate's 5,645.

In 1885, Mr. Edwards also acted for Lord Algernon Percy, for the Borough of St. George's, Hanover-square, when he was opposed by Sir W. Phillimore; but Lord Algernon Percy was returned by a majority of 2,753.

In 1886, Mr. Edwards for the fifth time took charge of the

Right Hon. W. H. Smith's election, Mr. J. E. H. Skinner being now the Liberal candidate. The result was :—Smith, W. H., 5,034 ; Skinner, J. E. H., 1,508. Thus the seats won for Westminster have never been lost.

In East Surrey Mr. Edwards has conducted three elections. In 1871, for Mr. James Watney, against the Hon. G. W. Leveson Gower, and Mr. Watney was returned, being the first Conservative who has ever sat for the division. In commemoration of the circumstance, the successful candidate presented Mr. Edwards with a handsome piece of plate. The poll was : Watney, J., 3,912 ; Gower, Hon. G. W., 2,749. In 1874 Mr. Edwards acted for Mr. Watney and Mr. W. Grantham, Q.C. (since appointed one of Her Majesty's judges), and the result was : Watney, 5,673 ; Grantham, 5,579 ; King, Hon. F. P. Locke, 4,292 ; Gassiot, F. P., jun., 4,115. In 1880 Mr. Edwards was again at East Surrey, the state of the poll being still more gratifying to him : Grantham, 8,014 ; Watney, 8,006 ; Robinson, W. F., Q.C., 5,978 ; Medley, G. W., 5,928. In this division also, it will therefore be seen, that the seats won were never lost.

Mr. Edwards has been to the West Riding of Yorkshire with even greater success. In the election of 1872 he was called hurriedly to the North Division, a neighbourhood where he had never been before in his life ; staying there for about a fortnight during a very severe contest, and turning out a sitting Liberal member. Mr. F. S. Powell, the Conservative, polled 6,971 votes ; Mr. J. Holden, the Liberal, 6,917 ; and as a memento of this remarkable victory Mr. Edwards received from Mr. Powell a handsome piece of plate.

In Hertfordshire his conquests are the following : In 1874, Mr. T. F. Halsey's and Mr. Abel Smith's return,

against the Hon. Henry Cowper and Mr. H. R. Brand, when the figures were: Halsey, 4,499; Smith, 4,498; Cowper, 2,974; Brand, 2,964. In 1880 the sitting members were again returned, then unopposed, Mr. Edwards being appointed as the agent. In 1885, during the sharp encounter in the St. Albans Division between Lord Grimston and Mr. Coles, Mr. Edwards represented the Conservative candidate, and after a very keen struggle, success was secured: Grimston, Viscount, 4,108; Coles, J., 3,037. In 1886, when Lord Grimston was returned unopposed, Mr. Edwards again acted for him.

He has also had charge of many Parliamentary elections in the Metropolitan districts. One of the most interesting was that at Southwark, in 1879, when he was agent for Mr. E. Clark, Q.C. (now Solicitor-General), who was opposed by Mr. A. Dunn and Mr. G. Shipton, resulting as follows: Clark, E., 7,683; Dunn, 6,830; Shipton, 799. It was mainly in consequence of the result of this contest that the late Earl of Beaconsfield (then Mr. Disraeli) dissolved Parliament; but the General Election that followed proved unfavourable to him.

In 1880 Mr. Edwards contested Maidstone on behalf of Major Ross and Captain Aylmer, who were opposed by the old members, Sir T. H. Waterlow, Bart., and Sir John Lubbock, who had sat for the Borough for many years. The two Conservatives were returned, to the great astonishment of the county, as no Conservatives had been returned for Maidstone for over 20 years. The declaration of the poll was: Ross, 1,965; Aylmer, 1,832; Lubbock, 1,725; Waterlow, 1,624. Then, in 1885, at Lower Norwood our subject was engaged for Mr. T. L. Bristowe, who polled 3,496 against 2,563 votes recorded for the Liberal candidate, Mr. P. W.

Clayden. In 1886, when Mr. Bristowe was opposed by Professor Oscar Browning, Mr. Edwards again had charge, with the result that the Conservative candidate's seat was kept quite secure—Bristowe, 3,334 ; Browning, 1,605. At Dulwich, in 1885, Mr. Edwards worked for Mr. Morgan Howard, Q.C., whose opponent was Mr. G. Collins, and the votes were : Morgan Howard, 4,406 ; Collins, 2,712. The value of this victory can only be properly appreciated by remembering that Mr. Morgan Howard had contested Lambeth for nearly 20 years, and had hitherto failed to be returned.

It will therefore be seen that between 1868 and 1886 (both inclusive) Mr. Edwards has contested twenty elections, and has returned twenty-seven members to the House of Commons, and never has any candidature with which he has been officially connected been a failure. Besides all this, he has beaten through the Liberal bulwarks of Westminster, East Surrey, West Yorkshire, Southwark, Maidstone, Norwood, and Dulwich. He has accordingly been well-termed the champion Election Agent of England.

It is also astonishing the number of elections he takes in hand at one time. In 1874, at the General Election, he was employed at Westminster, East Surrey, and Hertfordshire ; and in 1885 he had the Strand Borough ; the Borough of St. George's, Hanover Square ; Norwood ; Dulwich ; and St. Albans, and won them all. He is the only person who has contested more than one election at the same time.

Mr. Edwards takes great interest in the Constitutional Club at Westminster, being one of its first members, and he was elected on its first Council and Committee of Management, and still occupies the same position.

One would think that these busy election matters would

be quite enough to engross one man's mind. But not so with Mr. I. N. Edwards. One indication that he enjoys social life is seen in the fact that he is an ardent Freemason. The "Halsey" Lodge, No. 1479, was formed largely through his instrumentality. He was the first initiated that entered the Lodge, and became Secretary, Jr. and S. Warden, and was installed W. Master in 1877. He was the first initiated that became Master. He has filled the offices of P.G. Registrar and P.G.S. Warden. He was installed M.E.Z. of the "Gladsmuir Chapter," No. 1385, in 1882. He has filled the office of P.G. Sojr. for Herts. He is a member of the Watford Lodge of Mark Masons, No. 241.

As a farmer, Mr. Edwards takes a great interest in dairy enterprise, believing that is the only chance left to English agriculturists. He has strongly advocated for several years that they should aim to produce as much milk as possible, and that that which they cannot sell they should convert into butter. He is in favour of a creamery in every district of ten miles radius.

Nor has he become a dairy farmer without taking the trouble to possess sound scientific ideas on the subject of the treatment and feeding of cows. For a considerable period he has held that each dairy proprietor should know exactly what each animal eats daily, and what quantity and quality of milk each produces ; to carry out these views, he keeps daily records of the yields of each cow.

The wisdom of this course was fully endorsed as recently as the present year, by Mr. R. Warington, one of the authorities from the Rothamsted Laboratory, who insisted that if dairies are to be managed on business lines these records must be kept, and the farmer must, as Mr. Edwards does, understand scientifically the proportion and nature of

food to give to the various cows, according to the milk they supply.

For his dairy reports Mr. Edwards was awarded by the British Dairy Farmers' Association a diploma in 1882 ; in 1883 he received the fifty guineas silver Champion Cup, and again the following year, so that it has become his absolute property. He was also the recipient, in 1883 and 1885, of the Association's Silver Medal for his dairy records ; and in 1884 he was appointed a member of the Council of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, and is still a member of the same. In 1886 he read an essay on Winter Dairying at the Derby Conference ; the paper is inserted in the last volume of the Journal of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, and of the Royal Association of England.

His successes do not stop short even here. Mr. Edwards is a great admirer of pure-bred shorthorns, and believes that by perseverance and care their milking properties may be restored. He has gone to great expense in getting together and breeding for his dairy a select herd, which now numbers about 130 ; and his annual bull sale proves that his stock, as well as his dairy records, are growing in favour, as he now makes a very good average price for his bulls, some of which each year go to the Continent. The following are among the prizes that have been taken by his herd : In 1882, the Champion Cup and first and second prizes at the London Dairy Show; in 1884, in the milking class of the same Show, the first and second prizes and silver and bronze medals ; in 1884, the second and third prizes in the milking class of the Bath and West of England Show, at Maidstone ; in 1885, the second prize at the London Dairy Show, also the first prize and silver medal in the milking class at the same Show ; in 1886, the second prize in the milking class at the

same Show, and his young bulls have gained several first and second prizes.

We have therefore here a gentleman who, by withstanding the severest competition in the world political, agricultural, and legal, has shown himself, by sheer merit, to be a man of authority. The consequence is that he is always busy, finding his very happiness amid his crowded and diversified duties; so that one would more easily imagine him succumbing to the effects of leisure rather than to the strain and tension of extensive physical and brain exercise. Mr. Edwards retired, much more idle, would accordingly be an impossibility. His remarkable run of success has certainly deprived him of one thing, and that is any necessity (even if there were the disposition) to look out for business. That follows him as a shadow follows a substance; and the feelings of good fortune are on the side of those candidates who are happy enough at Parliamentary elections to secure the services of Mr. Isaac Newton Edwards.

Alderman S. Monckton White.

Mr. S. Monckton White.

PUBLIC life is not filled always with honeyed sweetness; Alastor, the unforgetting fury, is often invoked, and in small communities like St. Albans to dare to pursue an independent course is almost to court the well-nigh unquenchable ire of the Furies. That Mr. S. Monckton White acts freely therefore indicates courage. Yet, paradoxical, in the face of the above, as it may seem, he is essentially a popular public man. That no candid critic can conceal.

Whilst many local gentlemen not infrequently have to withstand angry "public opinion," have to become witnesses of "high feeling of indignation" against themselves—all as the result often of "presuming to have a personal policy" —Mr. White seems to live in perennial bliss as a local senator. This certainly is not due to an insipid existence, for he follows no man's shadow. But he acts with discretion.

There are many others in St. Albans who doubtless have no more faults, and, may-be, he himself would say not so many, yet for the want of discretion they ride their hobbies to death and incur the blackest odium. Mr. White, how-

ever, keeps his equilibrium, and at the right time remembers he has neither a monopoly of wisdom nor of power, and, once finding the current of feeling is too much for him, he is not so stupid as to defy all around him. Ajax may defy the lightning, and Councillors may defy the majority of their colleagues, but the defiance is none the more likely to avail.

If we are to judge fairly from his public conduct, our subject has learnt this, whilst others prefer to go on imitating Ajax. Discretion and gentlemanly culture will cover a multitude of blemishes in any career of public stewardship. The former saves one from riding his hobby to death, and the latter preserves the temper and good feeling even of opponents, however staunch they be. "To err is mortal;" Mr. S. Monckton White has often erred, as he himself would be the first to acknowledge, yet probably no one in St. Albans is more popular.

This discretion serves well, too, in another way, which is not of small consequence. It may doubtless be taken as an invariable rule, that no one, however blessed with prudence, who enjoys a protracted tenure of office as "the steward of the public," is ever able to produce a "clean record" in the matter of having always escaped a passing wave of local indignation. One would have to be a veritable wiseacre to do so. Once confronted with such "a storm," the best tact for anyone certainly is to trust to time for the effacement of the "wrong," having otherwise acted consistently.

Notwithstanding this, comparatively few benefit by Æschylus's wise simile of regarding one's self under such circumstances as being reft for awhile only of the sun, and to believe that anon its cheering light will be rekindled. This has been amply illustrated in many local experiences. Clouds have dimmed the life, for example, of Councillor

Slade many times, but he has not worn sackcloth and ashes and left the Council in a pique, and as a natural consequence he has outlived these evanescent troubles. The cheering light of the sun, it need hardly be added, has been and will again be rekindled. So, likewise, in the case of Mr. S. Monckton White. Such is the reward of common-sense.

Local patriotism has on several occasions been the theme of comment in *The Herts Standard*, and it will be no empty compliment to write down as a local patriot the gentleman whose life we are now considering. Those who are not in sympathy with his politics; the temperance folk who, if the truth must be told, are jealous of the continued success of his trade; the Nonconformists, who regard every Churchman as "a wanderer from the truth," will, nevertheless, admire the open-handed generosity, the full liberality, of our whilom Mayor.

The mace which the St. Albans Cathedral authorities pride themselves with for use on the occasion of the attendance of the chief magistrates at the services; the splendid chain that now graces and adorns the shoulders of St. Albans Mayors, are, however, only the outward witnesses of a good and hospitable heart. Mr. White may have errors of judgment in any aspect of his public life, but he is always "Hail fellow, well met," and this without any sacrifice of dignity. Let it be said "with bated breath," upon information gleaned only from private sources, he is in a quiet and unostentatious way a good friend to the needy—the necessitous poor never ask in vain.

True, he always appears to have been fortunate all round, recalling to mind the Greek legend concerning Pindar, that, when a boy, a swarm of bees settled on his lips whilst he was asleep, and filled his mouth with their honey.

Prosperity seems to have been his lot since his birth in 1845 at Beltring, East Peckham, Kent. He was educated at King's College School, London; came to St. Albans in 1868, and in 1870 married Edith, only daughter of the late Algernon Masters, Esq., of Tonbridge, Kent. It was in 1873 that he received a commission in the 2nd Herts Rifle Volunteers, and in 1874 passed the examination as Lieutenant, and did not retire till 1884. In 1879, he was made Captain of the County Fire Brigade (Herts), and in 1883 retired with a testimonial from the members. Not until 1882 did Mr. White enter the Corporation, but was elected Mayor in the following year, and again in 1885; in 1887 he was elevated to the dignity of an Alderman.

His Mayoralty in 1883, besides being marked for good judgment in regard to his ruling in the Council and on the Bench, was conspicuous also for his magnificent gift to the Cathedral of the mace of which we have already spoken. In 1885 he fairly surprised the city by presenting an elegant and costly gold chain for use by succeeding Mayors.

Upon the formation of the Herts Brewers' Association in 1883 he was elected its president, and was re-elected in 1884-5-6. Local public institutions have made good use of him. He is a vice-president (with that "inevitable" subscription) of the "Verulam" Habitation of the Primrose League; a governor of the St. Albans Grammar School; an honorary member of the Oddfellows and Foresters; member of the Herts Natural History Society; director of the St. Albans Building Society; director of the Herts Steam Laundry (Harpenden); besides being a member of the United Service Institution, Whitehall Yard, London; and his clubs are the Herts Conservative Club (also known as the Eighty Club) and the Constitutional, London.

He has seen and accelerated many local developments. The Sewerage Scheme was commenced in 1883, the year of his first Mayoralty; and in 1885, during his second tenure of office, he had the honour of receiving H.R. and I.H. the Duchess of Edinburgh, on the occasion of the marriage of Lady Harriot Grimston. On 24th October, 1885, also within the period of his second Mayoralty, the re-opening of the Nave of the St. Albans Abbey took place, and he attended the services with the Corporation. In that year, too, the Sewerage Scheme was completed.

As a politician and public speaker, his views are well-known. That he is an acquisition to the County Conservative cause, and that the leaders of the local party think so, is apparent alone from his position as a member of the Eighty Club.

In Mr. White, Lord Grimston had a busy and influential advocate during his fierce contest in 1885. As a speaker, he is best in placing in a weighty form the solid facts of politics, so that as a controversialist, appealing to common-sense from a well-informed audience, his abilities are far from a mediocre order. He is a gentleman to whom St. Albans as a city has to be grateful, and his genuine, genial heart reminds us :—

> "What are we, great or lowly? Creatures of a day.
> Man's but a phantom dream. Yet in the gracious ray
> Poured from on high, his life puts joy and glory on."

Mr. H. P. Smith.

MAYOR OF ST. ALBANS, 1886-7.

IN none of its conglomeration of departments is the British system of representative government more conspicuously illustrated than in the mode of making Mayors. Mr. Henry Partridge Smith has attained to this highest civic honour after some five years of local public life.

It was in 1882 that he was first returned as a member of the St. Albans Town Council; was re-elected in 1885, and in 1886 was chosen as Chief Magistrate. He is a native of this ancient borough, and is closely identified with its staple industry, being himself a straw hat manufacturer with large business operations. Consequently as an employer of labour he is most intimately associated with the public interests of the neighbourhood.

His tenure of office as a ratepayers' representative has not been interspersed with many galvanic or thrilling shocks, apart of course from the little diversion which everyone looks for during municipal contests. He has a temperament

Mr. H. Partridge Smith.

of a steady business-like description, and can settle down to the transaction of the routine of Council work without the stimulus of first making a great display at oratory.

He is nevertheless very well qualified to perform the functions of a public speaker, and so far as style and matter are concerned, neatness and correctness of periods invariably distinguish what he has to say. He has decidedly no disposition for inflated, nor even glowing, eloquence, and whilst he can talk sensibly on most topics, he lacks, if anything, more of the warmth of enthusiasm.

In politics he is a moderate Liberal, a sound Churchman, an ardent admirer of the Grand Old Man, yet has a very wise control over his feelings and political promptings. For instance, during his Mayoralty he announced his intention not to connect himself with any party efforts, but to confine himself to studying the welfare of the Corporation of which he is for the time being the head.

He has worked with assiduity for various local objects of a general character. St. Albans lost the permanent baths, and would probably have still been suffering therefrom to this day if it had not been for the vigilance with which Mr. H. P. Smith took up the matter of securing the outdoor swimming bath at the river Ver. For that purpose he raised a subscription list, which altogether yielded about £140, enabling a committee to construct a rendezvous for bathers in the Summer.

Of course no man who has embarked upon the ocean of public life has ever voyaged through his public career without being made aware of the presence about him of elements that give rise to storms. No more has Mr. Smith. But whether on the topic of his election as Mayor, or the exercise of his Mayoral votes at the election of Alderman when Mr.

Councillor Slade was defeated by his casting vote, he must be left to be the supreme judge of his own conscience. His explanation—that when, at the other vacancy for an Alderman occurring just previously, he was anxious that the undoubtedly valuable services of Mr. James Fisk should be secured led him, in an unguarded moment, to pledge against Mr. Slade because otherwise Mr. Fisk's defeat seemed imminent—is at least manly and honourable. It is a statement consistent with honour, and it is for Mr. Smith himself to adjudicate best on the conflicting contentions as to motive. As the Stoics used to say, every man is recommended first and principally to his own care ; and Adam Smith also puts it well, that certainly every man, in every respect, is fitter and abler to take care of himself than of any other person.

But in a sketch that occupies a permanent place too much significance must not be attached to a passing circumstance. The Mayor, with commendable frankness, admits to those who confront him that he was, as they say, at fault in making the promise, though he may on the other point reasonably be proud of having redeemed his promise, and in this sense having saved his honour. Who is immaculate ?

To take a complete review of his stewardship, Mr. H. P. Smith is a gentleman who evidently strives to do what is right and just for the public good, according to the standard which his own code of ethics has raised up, as every man indeed should do. Whenever a great deal is said about cliques, there is no tribunal who can arrive at a righteous verdict as to complete or partial guilt, nor of one's innocence, save the tribunal that sits enthroned in a man's own moral judgment hall of the mind. Yet, emphatically, they are wise who keep clear of factions, for what Sophocles tells us has more than a scintilla of truth in it, that, "As the wealth

of earth and the flower of human strength fade, so decay leagues and alliances ":—

> "And what if now at Thebes all things run smooth
> And well towards thee, Time, in myriad change,
> A myriad of nights and days bring forth; and thus
> In these, for some slight cause, they yet may spurn
> In battle all their pledge of loyalty."

Mr. William Hurlock.

A MAN not without mistakes yet of many virtues is Mr. William Hurlock, of Ver House, St. Albans. Those who know him merely by report do not know him thoroughly.

Glorying in his professions of Democratic views, he is unfortunately sometimes regarded as pugnacious and this to an undeserved extent. The truth is that in private life there is no more amiable, generous, or open-hearted subject. To state the fact clearly, if we were exponents of the phrenological science and Mr. Hurlock was our subject, we should say that his bump of patriotism was well developed, but that, on the other hand, he was sometimes lacking discrimination and good taste in public life.

Having thus flavoured these comments with a little mild criticism, a few lines of a complimentary character (which in sheer justice we are bound to add) may be accepted as all the more sincere. There is one prominent trait we particularly admire. He is an unselfish lover of manly, impartial criticism. At whatever cost, he will join in any effort to unearth abuse

Mr. William Hurlock.

and worship truth. He is not, morally or physically, a man of the flabby jelly-fish order—with no stamina to endure a just conflict in a public-spirited manner. That quality for independent thought is an excellent one, but this very quality, to be effectively exercised, calls for more discretion than our subject always exhibits.

It will not be beside the mark, nor by any means unfriendly, to say that whilst he has considerable hold on local public sympathy, he is not remarkable for his popularity. Now this very reflection suggests one of two extremes:—that his limited popularity is due either to vapid bluster or to a brave display of independent thought. Whether as a Councillor or as a politician, he believes he is always pursuing the latter honourable course, and where he fails glaringly is in losing self-command when confronting a public body or a public assembly. This has had the undesirable effect of permitting what we feel compelled to regard as often an unjust feeling that he is a victim to vapid bluster.

This last-named is more the characteristic of the Demagogue, which Mr. Hurlock is not. He is not a public selfish-seeker, not a vain self-glorifying bigot; but a gentleman who means well, yet who, unfortunately, for want sometimes of tact and better taste, unnecessarily makes too many public opponents. He seems to have started out in the public service with a very laudable and righteous anger at public abuses, knowing that in some places they thrive unmolested, and ever since appears to have been on the *qui vive* for their discovery. Thus, unintentionally, a spirit of offensive criticism has been cultivated, blemishing an otherwise good-natured and philanthropic heart.

But he is not without many noble traits. Besides being generous, he is very forgiving, and there should not be the

slightest compunction for any of his opponents to watch with warm approval his consistency of conduct, his courage of his creed; whilst his local vigilance is, speaking generally, of good benefit to the city, of which he is an ungrudging supporter.

We have spoken of his faults with candour, and we are now impelled to point out that in local "scrimmages" the blame has not always been on his side. Granted, that he has been irregular at times, it would nevertheless have been better had irritation been less stimulated by the other side. Mr. Hurlock has generally shown a wholesome interest in the city, ready to use his wealth for the good of local business, and if treated with a proper show of importance might, we believe, be more frequently made a friend than constituted an enemy.

There are obligations, of course, on his part, and the first would be for him to resist any honourable private friendship causing him to appear to be bound still to his leading-strings.

Politically, he teaches the doctrine that the genius of government should be altogether democratical. But he, as well as others holding tenaciously this tenet, should read history with unprejudiced eyes. The Grecian Republic, as an instance in early history, and the American government as an illustration of the modern movement, teach their lessons to those who will learn them.

If Mr. Hurlock was a better student in this respect, we think his eloquence, too, would perhaps bear closer examination. Athenian oratory, he would find, was not that which was noisy, petulant, and showy merely, but was notable for its persuasive and effective powers. There, public speaking was a serious contention for public leading, which was the great aim of men of ambition and men of virtue. This,

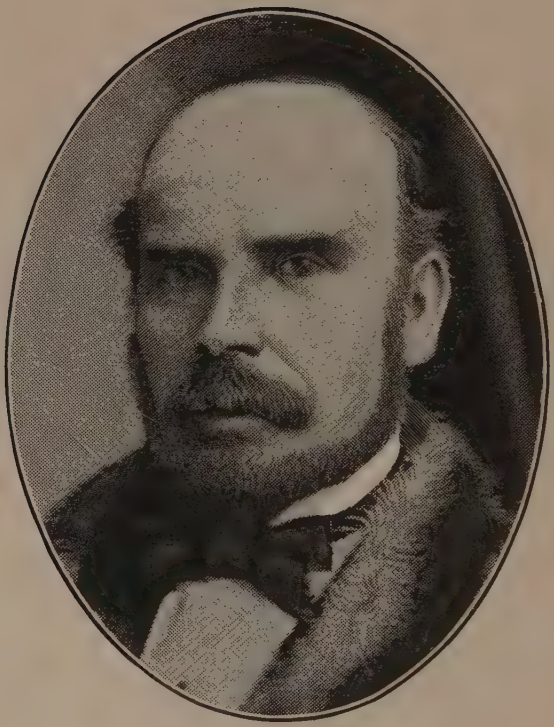
nevertheless, and despite the fact that the Athenians were an ingenious people, there are the glaring danger-signals against extreme democracy inasmuch as their government was frequently disturbed by sudden revolutions, and the Government itself at times became corrupt and degenerate. To state it succinctly, revolutions seem to be the concomitants of the democratical struggle.

Now, as to public speaking, Mr. Hurlock chiefly wants to benefit by attention to the elegance of style. Let him study more the Attic refinement and the Attic purity of style which, indeed, have passed into a proverb. A little jealousy about imitating more the culture of Athenian oratory and less its democratical tendency would render him a most estimable individual. Nevertheless, let us not be unheedful of the fact that he is certainly not without ability as a speaker. When he grows eloquent, it is the fierce vehemence that makes us dread lest Jupiter indeed is about to launch a thunderbolt. In this way he, however, sometimes mars his public performances. He rattles along at express speed, to the sacrifice often of what is really good and thoughtful matter. He has the command of a good deal of information, is well read, and generally fairly logical. As we have said, he is too extreme and apt to wax too noisy, and then there escapes that nice discrimination and tact that are golden qualities to an orator. At such time he declaims fiercely for the democracy, and almost vies with Mirabeau in attempting to eliminate the word "impossible" from his dictionary. Two General Elections should, however, have had their sobering effect, and bring effectively before so sanguine a mind as Mr. Hurlock's the reminder that even Archimedes could not move the world for want of a fulcrum on which to rest his lever.

Mr. Hurlock was born in 1840 in New Town, Deptford, Kent, and has the pleasure of looking back upon the fact that he was out at the age of ten, and in business for himself at 15 years of age. Commercially, he has made good use of his opportunities, and his success in this direction constitutes, to say the least, an excellent credential for public trust as a representative of the city in civic matters. It is some twenty years ago that he came to St. Albans, and he is therefore now a good St. Albanian. When he contemplated purchasing the Ver House property, being specially attracted by the river, the medical faculty proclaimed the site too damp for his weak lungs ; but that "low-lying district" has, instead of being a nursery of illness, proved a salubrious spot and most beneficial to health.

He has outlived one characteristic of the city which was far more objectionable twenty years ago than now, namely, the powerful dislike the then townsfolk had to the interference of strangers. Fortunately, we are wiser now to recognise that every influx of residents means a fillip to the city commerce. In November, 1874, Mr. Hurlock was first returned to the Town Council, though as he sometimes jocularly puts it, many of his opponents would then have preferred seeing him returned to Newgate. Since that time he has been a champion of local independence, and though it is not possible at all times to agree with his mode of procedure, yet his motives doubtless are sound and admissible. And in politics as in social reforms he always appears completely engrossed with this idea :—

. . . . "Forward, forward let us range.
Let the great world spin for ever down the ringing grooves of change.
Thro' the shadow of the globe we sweep into the younger day :
Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay."



Mr. George Slade.

Mr. George Slade.

PERHAPS better known as a veteran Councillor of St. Albans, Mr. Slade nevertheless is no mean light in the local Liberal world, nor of insignificant force in the district Liberal camp. He is a warm-hearted subject, and it would be no easy task to justly sustain a reproach against him of bigotry or any conduct betraying a spirit of exclusiveness. He is happily one of the too few men who have learnt that to love any distinctive political principles need not be tantamount to nor entail feelings of fierce spleen against those of an opposite school of thought.

Mr. Slade was born in London, but has lived in St. Albans for upwards of 60 years. Everybody has heard of Miss Harriet Martineau's "Tales of Political Economy," and bearing in mind the distinction that lady attained to for literary power, Mr. Slade ought to feel proud of the fact that at the very period Miss Martineau was at St. Albans preparing her "copy," he fulfilled the duties of amanuensis to the eminent authoress. This probably formed the groundwork for the political faith that is in him. Mr. Slade has always exhibited a strong desire to spread knowledge, so that Liberals

may be able to show good reason for the cause they ostensibly espouse. The necessity in this direction is a pressing one. It has had to be regretted that some of the most sparkling political writings do not alone successfully allure the indolent student. The average reader of current topics cares not at all now-a-days how Lord Melbourne went out or Peel came in. If any passing allusion is made in the favourite organ "of the right colour" to those very exciting contests of keen Parliamentary life, they are simply misplaced interruptions which irritate him. It has been perhaps too truly said he has no appreciation of a sharp portraiture of the Rigbys, the Tadpoles, and the Tapers, though these be drawn by as facile a pen as that of the author of "Sybil." But it is this very spirit of enquiry that the subject of the present sketch is eager to arouse—to get the minds of the rising generation of Liberals well stored with political history.

For a long time Mr. Slade has taken an active part in the organisation of the Liberal party of the city and neighbourhood. But in a modest way he is a free-lance. He is a Liberal Unionist, and during the recent friction in his party camp at the time of the 1886 election, he showed a firm and strong mind to assert the position and right of independent thought. And this is only a type of his general public conduct. From cliques and exclusive sections he keeps himself free.

This is plainly noticeable in his Town Council experience. As a natural consequence his friends are not few, neither are his foes. Of course this is only to be expected by any public representative who has the stamina of character to assume for himself a distinctive line of action. In his time Councillor Slade has been the target for unstinted anger; periodically one set of opponents and then another have fulminated

against him, and many a man would have quivered when he has endured it all, and outlived every season of adversity as a public man.

Having entered the Town Council in 1854, he is now the senior member of the civic body. He has been a Councillor 26 years, the interim of six years thus shown being spent largely out of the district though he was then generally a resident. During those six years he declined to hold a seat in the Council on the ground that his constant absence operated in preventing him from conscientiously discharging the trust that would be placed in him.

In 1875 he was elected Mayor, and his year of office was a busy one. Prominent amongst his accomplishments as chief magistrate the present Public Library and improved state of Victoria-street stand in testimony. But these undoubted advantages were not gained without encountering fierce obstacles. It was in the early part of 1876 that as Mayor of the City he convened a meeting of the inhabitants to consider the advisability of founding a Public Library and to raise the necessary funds by subscriptions. Nearly £400 was promised at that meeting, and during the year upwards of £900 was obtained towards this object. The ground was purchased and preparatory arrangements made for the final accomplishment of the scheme. During his term of office he also saw the commencement and nearly the completion of the Public Baths. These were established under the Limited Liability Act, and shares of £1 each were issued.

It need hardly be said that these baths were of much benefit to the local community. Upwards of 500 young people were taught swimming and other arts of natation in the space of three years. The warm and Turkish baths were also well patronised, but the latter entailed too much expense.

And now, alas, permanent Baths are, so far as St. Albans is concerned, an institution of the past. As the young grow up, doomed to spend a life within the city walls, they may well mourn the limited provision made for rational recreation, and turn in vain now to Victoria-street for a refreshing plunge. They may be pardoned for almost envying the gay life of the Pompeian lounger at the Roman baths. Though we cannot expect to emulate those ancient customs, to have at our baths attendant slaves impatient to anoint bathers from vials of gold, of alabaster, or of crystal, containing the rarest unguents gathered from all quarters of the world, yet it is to be deplored that in St. Albans we have to go to the other extreme and have no public baths at all for the winter.

Though we do not exactly miss with jealousy all the luxurious parts of the Roman process, with its exhalation of spicy perfume, we may certainly be filled with regret that so far as public accommodation is concerned we now never know the delicious sense of being refreshed by a splashing dip, than which there is little that better restores to us the zest and freshness of rejuvenated life. Lord Lytton makes his Glaucus say, "Blessed be he who invented baths. Whether he were Hercules or Bacchus he deserved deification." And we fancy many a St. Albanian would be inclined to breathe a similar sentiment if some local patriot could unfold a sound project for the re-opening of the St. Albans Baths.

Mr. Slade has been associated with many other city improvements, and not the least important nor least creditable was the widening of the old Sweetbriar-lane into its present excellent state of a thoroughfare, and now known as Victoria-street. At the time of his Mayoralty this was merely a narrow lane, ending close to the Town Hall, where its width

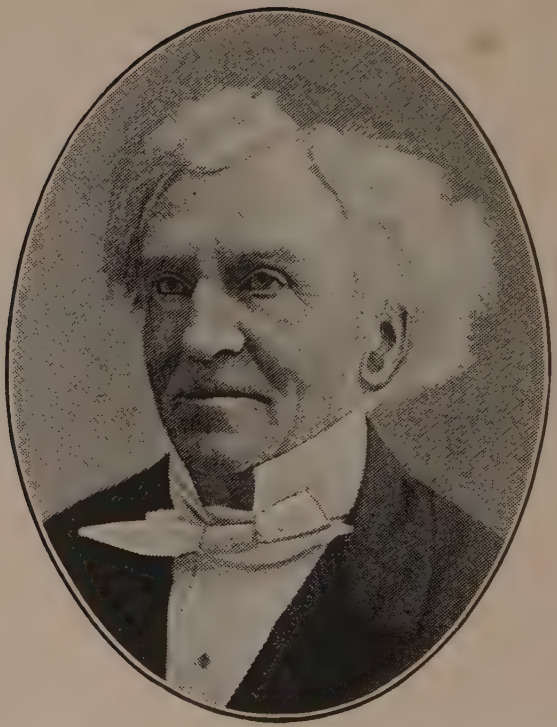
was hardly sufficient to permit the passage of a vehicle. As there was direct communication from the very heart of St. Albans to the outlying districts and to the Midland Railway, he foresaw that the widening and improving of this thoroughfare must be the precursor of many succeeding benefits.

At that time Mr. Thomas Kinder was about to sell for building purposes all his land which abutted on Sweet-briar-lane. Mr. Slade therefore endeavoured and succeeded in persuading Mr. Kinder to give up 15ft. from the top to the bottom of the lane, as far as his land extended, to make it sufficiently wide for a road. Mr. Kinder having generously done this, also cleared away an immense quantity of earth, and levelled the lane. He then gave all the flints and upwards of 50,000 bricks to the Corporation when the walls were pulled down. Mr. Slade waited upon Lord Spencer's steward and Mr. Nicholson (now Sir Richard Nicholson), who had property on the north side of the lane. From Lord Spencer £100 was obtained as a subscription towards making the road, and Mr. Nicholson gave £25. Thus, with Mr. Kinder's gift, he was instrumental in securing sufficient to make the street without touching one shilling from the borough fund.

This being accomplished, a difficulty arose as to the entrance from the Town Hall, there being on either side buildings projecting. He therefore urged the Council to secure the property on one side belonging to Mr. Brabant to bring the project to a complete success. An application for power was made to the Local Government Board, one of whose inspectors instituted an inquiry, and he reported in favour of the Council purchasing the property voluntarily, but not compulsorily. It was then found that this would cost £1,500. Against such an expenditure there was fierce opposition incited by some members of the Council. Then

followed a few lively weeks in which St. Albans lived in an electric air, abuses and indignant protests being loudly spoken.

Mr. Slade was actually held up as a traitor! From those whose support ought to have been forthcoming there came instead malignant obstruction. But the movement was persevered with in spite of all. Our friend had faith in the scheme to lead to an enlargement of the town and to give an impetus to trade. The necessary borrowing power was obtained from Government, and the loan granted, to be repaid in 40 years. The result has been that the street has proved a great success, financially as well as from a residential point of view. The chief regret that remains is that it was not named "Slade-street," in recognition of the persistent efforts of the Councillor who was virtually its founder. He was also the author of the extension of the city boundary movement, and to him, too, is due the first steps that were taken for the provision of the new cemetery to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing population of the city.



Mr. E. A. Fawcett.

Mr. Edmund A. Fawcett.

WE are again reminded of how narrow is the line of cleavage in party politics by the life of Mr. Edmund Alderson Fawcett, of Childwick Hall. Stern and inflexible as a Fair-trader he is doubtless dubbed as a bigot by some of the more narrow-minded of Free-traders who may live in smug contentment ; on the other hand, merciless and unsparing as a zealous champion of cottagers' home reform, he has incurred the deep displeasure of landlords of the type of the Duke of Richmond.

In all his actions and distinctive line of public conduct, whether for the nonce he is erratic or regular and prudent, it is easy to trace Mr. Fawcett's every movement to a desire to profit by the wise words, that "foolish legislation is a rope of sand which perishes in the twisting." And when a man's outward life is governed by a powerful feeling in the soul, no petty consideration of offending or pleasing the few will avail. It may not seem natural to the "orthodox" that a relentless Fair-trader should at the same time be a warm-hearted friend of the cottagers' cause, yet in actual life we find that this is so with Mr. Fawcett.

He has a distinct *personnel*. He knows, too, the value of vigilance in politics. There is no occasion when service can possibly be performed in behalf of any of the movements he has at heart that is allowed to slip by unused. He is a walking encyclopedia of reference for the Protectionists' crusade, and offhand can give the effectual retort to any passing criticism. Figures and facts, metaphors bold and free, come forth at a second's notice most apposite for the occasion. There must have been times when this has been freely noticed. Before a company of Free-traders his presence is almost as disturbing as was the introduction of Æneas when conducted by the poet Virgil through the shades below inspiring terror among the ghosts of the Greeks who had fought at Troy :—

> " The Grecian chiefs, and Agamemnon's host,
> When they beheld the Man with shining arms,
> Amid those shades, trembled with sudden fear.
> Part turned their backs in flight as when they sought
> Their ships . . . . . part raised
> A feeble outcry, but the sound commenced
> Died on their gasping lips."

Our subject comes from the county of Westmoreland; Sandford, near Appleby, being his birthplace. From his father he inherited Sandford Hall, which was purchased by his ancestors in the reign of Charles II. Mr. Fawcett's mother was a daughter of William Alderson, Esq., of Keld Swaledale, Richmond, Yorkshire, and a near relation of Baron Alderson's. When eleven years of age, young Fawcett came to London, and having been educated in the city went into the counting-house of his uncle, who was an agent for silk manufacturers. Upon the retirement of the uncle, and at the age of nineteen, he started for himself, remaining

connected with the silk trade until the French Treaty was made.

At the St. Albans Farmers' Club he has often spoken with vehemence on the subject of the ruined silk industry, and this explanation of his close personal contact with the business, lends additional authority and value to his many comments upon a subject so intimate to him. From the English commercial view, so far at any rate as the silk trade is concerned, the indictment against the French Treaty is a heavy one. Admitting silk goods free of duty, it has destroyed the silk business in this country, where formerly thousands of hands were employed in spinning, weaving, dyeing, &c.

At the outset Mr. Fawcett predicted the chaos of the industry as a result of the Treaty. But the warnings received, generally, only a cynical welcome. Yet the word of caution was not withheld. In the money columns of *The Times*, Mr. Fawcett industriously propagated the truth, but a prophet is not received in his own country. The sequel is a sad one. We are now importing per annum over £10,000,000 worth of silk manufactured goods used by the upper classes of society, whilst our workpeople at home are wanting bread. To those who organise Fair Trade movements, Mr. Fawcett's help is most valuable.

There is probably no local gentleman who has so ready available data of the best description. He can confute and refute Sir James Caird himself, and has more than once publicly corrected Sir James's figures. That Government official, for instance, now admits that Irish produce is worth twenty million pounds a year less since the operation of Free Trade, but Mr. Fawcett is inclined to estimate the loss even higher than that. This is a serious reflection for the Conservative

Government, and he pertinently asks, Will the new Government be acting prudently by making the Irish farmers pay rents which will soon ruin them?

Mr. Fawcett, like the Grand Old Man, thinks his rest cannot long be delayed. In harness to the last has been one of the best prized privileges of many a notable man, and our subject seems almost to glory in pursuing an active life to the end of his days. As a public speaker he possesses a ductility and versatility of talents, and these are quickened by the store of general knowledge which a long and busy life has brought with it. Fluency and breadth of sympathy mark all his utterances. Still, it is of course, no disparagement to say that he is not a Demosthenes. He does not lack fire nor warmth of delivery, but he does lack declamation. There is probably no finer declaimer around St. Albans than Mr. W. H. Aylen, of London Colney, and perhaps for thoroughness in the mastery of a complex subject of dry facts and figures, there are few to excel Mr. Fawcett.

Each of these gentlemen does much to raise the tone of local public speaking, which in the rank and file of general life is too often neglected. The Bar, the Pulpit, and the Platform alike furnish lamentable proofs that the art of public speaking is not sufficiently nor carefully cultivated as a rule. Mr. Fawcett, however, as we have said, can always carry attention, but he errs on the side of being too studious, too solid. Still he is an emotional sympathiser with the poor, nearly rises to indignation in the demand for better labourers' cottages, and in this cause he toils untiringly, and evidently *con amore*. But if he were struggling for the suppression of the slave trade, instead of the eradication of a moral malaria, it would be fulsome flattery to write of him:—

"His was the thunder—his the avenging rod—
The wrath—the delegated voice of God,
Which shook the nations through his lips and blazed,
Till vanquished senates trembled as he praised."

He can state arguments cogently and with the force of intelligence; but these very qualifications in the absence of declamation leave the listener insatiated, wanting some influence to interest as well as instruct him. These friendly lines are penned because we believe that, in spite of his age, Mr. Fawcett still has the capacity to stir the deeper feelings of an audience of at any rate limited size.

In pursuing his movement for better labourers' cottages, Mr. Fawcett will be doing as much good work for the cause of morality as for domestic comfort in humble life. It is not complete satisfaction to be told by the Duke of Richmond that many landlords are doing their duty. We have heard that before and believe it. Yet in some districts there is a shameful herding together of labourers' families. At a recent inquest it was proved that the dead and the living were in the same bedroom to the extent of eight persons of various ages and of both sexes. Is this the state of things the Duke of Richmond is proud of?

When Mr. Fawcett was speaking at the Norwich Show in the presence and under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, he pointed to the grave domestic position of many farm labourers. As an incentive to reform, he suggested that the society should annually offer an award of one hundred pounds to the landlord who had made the best and most suitable provision for his cottagers. This the Duke of Richmond construed into an insult to the landlords. We are sorry for his Grace, for he will assuredly find that if this pressing subject is wisely ventilated the power of public opinion will be

far too serious to permit the Legislature to long delay urgent attention to this matter. What Mr. Fawcett is quite right in insisting upon is, that, however exceptional such instances may be, it should be impossible for any case similar to that we have alluded to, of family immorality, to exist as the result of brothers and sisters being compelled to share the same sleeping apartments.

Mr. Fawcett purchased the lease of Childwick Hall 24 years ago, and has since devoted considerable capital and thought to agricultural pursuits in the neighbourhood. But his farming experience is not limited to those 24 years. Upon Sandford Hall becoming his property he there continued the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, which his ancestors had been in the habit of doing for the past 200 years.

In the year 1852 he exhibited three bulls at the Kendal Show, and won the first three prizes, beating animals bred by Colonel Townely and Mr. Ellison, of Sizer Castle. The dam of *Van Tromp*, the first prize bull at the Highland Show in 1864, was purchased from Mr. Fawcett. He also bred the bull, *Lord of Warlaby*, winner of the first prize at the Bath and West of England Show in 1864; he also won both the first prizes for females at the Birmingham Show in 1871, since which he has not exhibited. At his sale in 1880, Mr. I. N. Edwards purchased the cow *Fame*, celebrated for milking and breeding, from which cow the highest priced animals which have been sold at Westminster Lodge are descended. Messrs. Rothschilds also purchased the cow *Cherry Ripe* from him, the dam of *Captain Cherry*, the winner of the first prize at the Royal Show; and *Baron Ryedale*, the first bull used at Sandringham, is descended from animals bred by him. Lord Verulam presided at one of his sales and Lord Grimston at another.

In 1877 Mr. Fawcett was present at the banquet in the Town Hall given to the Mayor (Mr. W. Cannon Smith) in commemoration of the town having been raised to the dignity of a city, and proposed the toast, "Prosperity to the City and Trade of St. Albans." On that occasion he made a speech which resulted in procuring the road round the end of the Abbey, and the closing of the footpath through the building. He also attended the meeting of Conservatives at the Westminster Palace Hotel, prior to the 1885 Election, and seconded the proposal to bring forward Lord Grimston for the county. He also presided at the meeting of agricultural labourers held in Harpenden in 1885, and attended meetings at St. Albans, Redbourn, Harpenden, &c., in support of Lord Grimston. He also assisted to procure the election of the late Sir Richard Musgrave for Cumberland, by forming a London committee for that purpose. Mr. Fawcett also supported the election of the Hon. William Lowther and Lord Bective for Westmoreland, in the same year. Mr. Fawcett is the vice-president of the St. Albans Farmers' Club, and has made many speeches, which have been fully published in *The Herts Standard* and many other agricultural papers.

He was elected a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1864, and was nominated by the late Earl of Feversham. Assisted by Mr. W. George and others, he took action which led to the dissolution of the St. Albans Highway Board, in consequence of the increased expenditure sustained by the ratepayers. He is of opinion that the entire taxation of the country will have to be placed upon the income tax, if the present one-sided Free Trade is continued. He is in favour of the total abolition of tithes, rent-charges, land tax, lords' rents, and all such payments by

equitable enfranchisement over a reasonable period. He holds that the owners of property should pay all rates and taxes upon it, or if paid by the tenants, should be deducted the same as income tax from the rents.

He believes that the farmers in the United Kingdom will not be able to pay any rents if the present Free Trade continues, and that direct or indirect taxation will in the end have to be adopted; Custom House duties must be entirely abolished, and all rates and taxes, excepting income tax ; or, otherwise, everything must bear its fair share of taxation, unless all the industrial classes in the kingdom are to be ruined, and obliged to emigrate to obtain a living. The money which ought to circulate here is now going abroad in payment for the goods, or food, which might, and ought to be, produced at home, and hence the want of employment and misery at present in all our large towns, and especially in the manufacturing and agricultural districts. Labourers' cottages, he contends, ought to have gardens of a reasonable size, and they ought to be provided by the landowners, and the labourers should have them rent free. It would, however, he thinks, be very unjust for the taxpayers to have to purchase land to let out in allotments at a great loss.

Mr. Gladstone's Irish proposals he regards as most absurd, and asks, How would any parliament in Dublin improve the position of the Farmers in Ireland ? The one-sided Free Trade has reduced the income from the produce of the soil to such an extent that the farmers cannot pay any rent. They hope by supporting Parnell to get the land rent free, and Mr. Gladstone would have the English taxpayers pay for it, and incur a loss of five to six million pounds per annum. Mr. Fawcett points to the fact that no immediate measures are offered by any political party to help the farmers, who must

either become bankrupt, or emigrate before their funds are entirely exhausted.

No man more than our subject ought to have hailed with satisfaction Lord Randolph Churchill's advent to power and office as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Randolph was in favour, we know, of retrenching Government salaries to the tune of many millions. And at the Farmers' Club and elsewhere Mr. Fawcett has always unsparingly condemned these monstrous stipends as well as the system of giving pensions to persons who have done little or nothing for them. Good Conservative as he is, he believes that although it is impossible to predict how long the people will bear this state of things, the day will nevertheless be found not to be far off when they will refuse to pay the unreasonable taxation now extracted from the country. Nor does he conceal his conviction that the taxation should be borne by those persons who are best able to pay it, and not by the hardworking and industrial classes who have enough to do to provide ordinary necessaries.

The facts embodied in this sketch will thus be found to amply justify the opening lines, that the life of Mr. Fawcett well illustrates how narrow is the line of cleavage between the great political parties of the Nineteenth-century. These are the men who remind us of the quatrain :—

"Then none was for a party, then all were for the State,
Then the great man helped the poor, and the poor man loved the great.
Then lands were fairly portioned, then spoils were fairly sold,
The Romans were like brothers in the brave days of old."

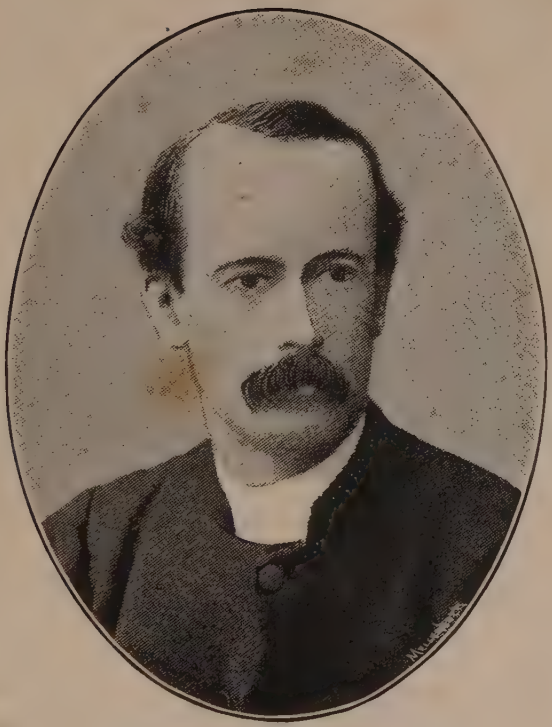
The Rev. G. H. P. Glossop, M.A.

IN a book whose pages have a strong political flavour, as in this instance, some very pleasurable feelings are kindled by pausing to glance at one, like the Rev. G. H. P. Glossop, who is worthily attaining to the dual object of preserving the importance and proper status of the clergy of the Established Church, and consistently with this position meddling in politics only discreetly and with good taste.

With some gentlemen in the high calling of life in which the subject of this sketch has elected to seek and perform useful work, political infatuation is too great for resistance, and sooner or later they fall into Lord Tennyson's whirlpool :—

"Raving politics, never at rest, as this poor earth's pale history runs."

In Mr. Glossop's case, however, identity with this branch of public contentions may be measured and defined by rules of moderation and sheer duty. That his views and colour of thought in this direction are known cannot be wondered at nor regretted. Any gentleman thoroughly well-informed on public topics, as he is, and accustomed to thinking deeply on



THE REV. G. H. P. GLOSSOP, M.A.

deep truths, must necessarily be led to examine and arrive at some conclusions on subjects affecting the national character and national well-being.

It is true he contrives, with a happy disposition, to conceal his political mind whenever partisanship might interrupt the sacred work that lies nearest to his hands; thus he escapes the torrent of disputations and lively wrath which are generally associated with active political encounters. Still, he does not go to the other extreme and live in a land with all his instincts of patriotism deadened and lost. Indeed, his mental vigour alone would save him from such a deplorable state of stagnation. Parsons are of course looked to for the maintenance, on their part, of "a benevolent neutrality" in politics; but even parsons who have brains used to plenty of discipline and exercise, must not be expected to eschew politics altogether, though undoubtedly some folk, desiring this, would forbid them even reading the articles in their morning paper! How much gentlemen of the cloth are taken care of, to be sure, by these good people!

Though not a member of any Conservative Association, Mr. Glossop is a warm supporter of the Primrose League, to which he holds all moderate men might consistently belong, whether they call themselves Liberals or Conservatives.

The Rev. George Henry Pownall Glossop is the eldest son of the late F. H. N. Glossop, Esq., of Silver Hall, Isleworth, J.P. and D.L. for Middlesex, by Anne Fish, daughter of the late Henry Pownall, Esq., of Spring Grove, for many years Chairman of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions. Our subject was educated at St. John's College, Oxford, taking the degree of B.A. in 1880; M.A., 1883. After leaving Oxford he spent a year at Wells Theological College, and was soon ordained by Dr. Temple, then Bishop of Exeter

(Deacon, 1882; Priest, 1883). His first curacy was at Afferham, a large county parish between Exeter and Taunton. There he remained from the beginning of 1882 till June, 1884, when he accepted the curacy of the St. Albans Abbey.

In 1886 he married Frances May, fourth daughter of Major Gape, of St. Michael's Manor.

In reference to the work carried on by the Church of England as a National Church, we may here remark with some care and respect, that Mr. Glossop's position as a clergyman forms just one of the various instances that illustrate how many become clergy of the Church whose social position indicates that they labour from heartfelt motives. We know from personal knowledge and observation that around Richmond and at Isleworth, Mr. Glossop's father, until the time of his demise in 1885, exerted a wide influence in all public affairs as the head of one of the leading county families, and in whose exalted station of life he was at all times generally respected and revered. He was a gentleman always generous, yet dispensing his wealth with discriminate judgment. As a Churchman he was ever ready to lend his influence for the good of the Church at Isleworth and the surrounding parishes, and the frequent announcement, in connection with public appeals and proceedings, of the support of F. H. N. Glossop, Esq., testified to the great esteem in which he was held and also the good use the Middlesex and Surrey public made of him in matters affecting the general well-being of society.

Therefore, the son who now serves as the senior curate at the St. Albans Abbey is one of those who, notwithstanding their own high rank, find a congenial sphere of labour in the discharge of almost honorary and often onerous duties. Fulfilling varied engagements of such positions, and under

these circumstances, with unselfish thoroughness certainly invests the Church's clerical appointments with the best dignity, and brings to them the very public appreciation and regard that become a power and force to a great institution.

In St. Albans the Rev. G. H. P. Glossop takes a very warm interest in the welfare of the working classes, whose sympathies and respect he fully enjoys; and in a quiet way, without any great parade, he is preserving the true status of his high office and finding the fulfilment of the Church's mission in the promotion of general happiness, in encouraging right sentiments respecting human brotherhood, as well as in the propagation of those principles which he relies on for vanquishing mortal and eternal grief.

Mr. Arthur Smith.

POLITICS, like theology, may be said to have two fundamental aspects: the practical and the theoretical. Mr. Arthur Smith, of Smallford, as an agriculturist, is concerned chiefly with the concrete and not with the abstract or metaphysical. His views and position in the political arena are of importance, more because of his writings than of his speeches.

The same idea that led John Stuart Mill to say that the value of the State in the long run will be the value of the individuals forming it is equally applicable to either of the two great political parties of the day. Their stability depends largely upon the character of the units of which they are composed, although not so visibly perhaps as they are reliant upon the *personnel* of their leaders. Thus, the views, especially when they are settled views, of the average member of the Conservative or the Liberal party are not to be despised.

These views may not be very powerful, in a wide sense, but each one influences his own direct circle, to the positive

Mr. Arthur Smith.

ultimate fate of his party. That the Constitutional party of the present day is undergoing a revolution may not be a euphonious phrase in the ears of some of our adherents; it is nevertheless a necessary admission on the part of the candid commentator. Once was the time, and not so very long ago, that to be a professed Conservative involved the very serious obligation, if one valued the goodwill of his political friends, of retaining feelings in harmony with "cherished traditions."

There could be no *arrière pensée*—no tending towards forbidden hopes, forbidden dreams. For a Conservative to be a Free-trader would constitute something worse than an anachronism, it would be heinous as a political sin. But we turn the kaleidoscope and view the political chess-board in the Nineteenth-century instead. The transformation is truly marvellous and genuine; for we find not merely Conservative leaders avowed Free-traders (which, of course, like any of their tactics, is at least open to the reproach of "swimming with the stream"), but what in one sense is more important, the rank and file of Conservatives include many fierce opponents of reciprocity. Mr. Arthur Smith is a case in point.

Of course to-day everyone will agree with him in regarding agriculture as the backbone to all our commerce. The glory of the farmer truly is, as Emerson has well put it, that in the division of labour, it is his part to create. All trade rests at last upon his primitive activity. But there has been a strange reaction since the days when the essayist wrote concerning husbandry that it was not only the physically exhilarating pursuit, but an unfailing profitable one also. The farm at one time was kept in reserve as an asylum where, in case of mischance, one could hide his poverty; now, however, it is chiefly remarkable as an insatiable draining factor to one's exchequer.

Emerson advised those who had wrecked their capital in town occupations "to go back to the land, and be recruited by that which should have been their nursery, and which now must be their hospital." But that could not possibly apply to-day. It is now the utmost resources of the capitalist and the keenest ingenuity of the agricultural scientist that is indispensable to farm without loss. Mr. Smith has devoted personal research and thought to this abtruse subject of modern agriculture. He is the author of "Contagious Cattle Diseases and their Relation to Consumers," "Why the Conservative Party should be supported by the Agricultural Labourer," "Is a return to Protection necessary to remove the Agricultural Depression ?"

Born in 1856, at Stanmore, Middlesex, Mr. Smith, it will be seen, is yet only 31 years of age. But that is just the period for vigorous mental activity, and such indeed, in all fairness, it is necessary to say marks everyone of his productions. To epitomise his political views, as detailed in his published writings, we find perhaps as the foremost indication of his creed the firm belief that an alteration in the system of agriculture would not only enable food to be produced here as cheaply as anywhere else in the world, but at the same time the quantity produced could be increased sufficiently to feed our population with all the necessaries of life ; consequently keeping at home the 150 millions at present unnecessarily sent out of the country.

Mr. Smith holds that the State must take fuller cognizance of the effect depression in agriculture has upon the general industries of the land, and thinks it is a standing disgrace to successive Governments that preferential rates have not been abolished before. These and other obstacles which stand in the way of agricultural improvement, must be

removed. Local taxation requires readjustment, so that the land should bear no more than its fair share. Landlords, he feels, must remove (or allow their tenants to do so) the large quantity of useless and crooked fences and hedge-row timber now standing, and he thinks very few are aware of the great loss these occasion, not only to the land in cultivation near them, but by occupying about 20 per cent. of our cultivated area.

In his work, "Is a return to Protection necessary to remove Agricultural Depression?" Mr. Smith makes a merciless onslaught on to the Fair Trade mission, which he looks upon as an utter fallacy. How does he expect to alleviate the commercially sickly industry of agriculture? Not by reverting to the old Corn Laws. In his opinion more technical education is required by anyone intending to follow agriculture as a profession, for it is in a very serious sense a profession and not a trade, demanding, therefore, special education. More brain power must be applied to agriculture; science must be allowed to assist the practice of agriculture in the many ways that are so possible. When the mind has had no scientific training for its guidance, every act of the farmer is invested with doubt, and any failure which may be caused through ignorance is surrounded with mystery. A proper use of steam cultivation, he holds, would decrease the cost of production by one-third at least. All machinery, whether fixed or movable, should be driven or drawn by steam, but undoubtedly the cheapest motive power is electricity, generated by water power, where that is available.

On some points, Mr. Smith's mind, like that of Lord Randolph Churchill, is most radical. He has a perfect penchant for "co-operation between consumers and producers," and certainly is not held back by any of the "old

fossilised views" of some people. The prejudices which sentimentality have created against growers retailing their produce, he says, must be swept away. Agriculturists must bring themselves into the closest possible connection with consumers, so that years of plenty, like 1886, in which growers of fruit, vegetables, &c., would have been money in pocket had they allowed their produce to decay upon the ground, should mean a benefit to producers and consumers alike, and not, as is at present, the cause of putting more money into the already full pockets of the middle-men. At the present time the cost of sending produce to market and the salesman's charges, in many branches of agricultural industry, exceed the value of the produce itself. Under such circumstances as this, Mr. Smith, with some plausibility, contends there must be something radically wrong somewhere, and whatever the true remedies may be, the situation has become something ridiculous.

In his publication on "Cattle Disease and its Relation to Consumers," he seeks to show that the only way to have meat at a reasonable price is to keep out contagious disease from the country, which can only be done by total prohibition of the importation of live cattle. The statements there made as to cattle disease have been verified by the fact that meat has never been so cheap as during the year 1886. The average price paid to *producers* has been as follows: Beef, 5d. per lb.; mutton, 6½d.; lamb 6d. (less than mutton); veal, 4½d.; pork, 5d.; milk, 1d. per quart in London Markets.

THE REV. W. R. WIDDOWSON.

The Rev. W. R. Widdowson.

IN a book having the design of supplying some chatty comments on the lives of representatives of every section of the local public, it will be useful to glance, though necessarily hurriedly, at the position filled by the Rev. W. R. Widdowson, who has charge of the St. Albans Primitive Methodist Chapel. He is a man with very laudable intentions, strong and sincere in his convictions, who has, however, also caught the severity of Puritanism, and is therefore a bit exclusive in disposition towards those who are regarded as the "classes" as opposed to the "masses."

Quietly pursuing his life work, he is one to be intimately associated with before fully valued or understood. Then it is possible to enjoy his quaint originality, his high motives, which go far to condone the little tendency in him to narrow his sympathies.

Coming of parents of the yeoman class, he was born and spent his early days in the Midland Counties, where he was nursed in family associations of Conservatism and in the

principles of the Church of England. The influence of the Methodists reached him, he joined that body, became a local preacher in his eighteenth year, and has now given forty years to the regular ministry, and this embraces nearly half the history of the Christian Denomination to which he belongs —as it began in 1810 with twelve members only, and has now grown to a membership of 191,641; besides the 9,000 who have amalgamated with the Methodists in Canada. There are in the Denomination over 1,000 regular ordained ministers, in addition to over 60,000 lay preachers; 412,000 Sabbath scholars; whilst the chapel property reaches the value of £3,000,000.

The first half of Mr. Widdowson's ministry was spent in the Midland Counties and the north of England; the latter half in connection with the Home Missions of the Society, chiefly in the neighbourhood of London. For the past eighteen years he has been a member of the principal Committees of the Denomination. He is an abstainer of 40 years' standing, and is an active supporter of the Temperance Cause. He cherishes a warm affection to many of the clergy and members of the Established Church, and when he is wanting a little in respect to the width of his views it is probably due only to an over-zealous fidelity to the doctrines which it is his life's work to espouse.

In politics he is a Conservative-Liberal, strongly opposed to all wild and visionary schemes of Socialism; yet believes that all Churches should be free from State patronage and control; also that every law which prevents the free sale and the free holding of land should be abolished, and that the transfer of it should be by simple registration; finally, that education should be compulsory and free; trade, perfectly free.

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